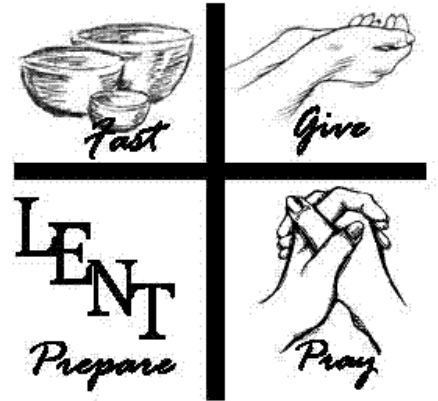


The Highlander

February 2016

At the start of his ministry Jesus fasts for 40 days in the wilderness and is tempted by Satan. Jesus remains faithful to his heavenly Father and Satan leaves Him alone.

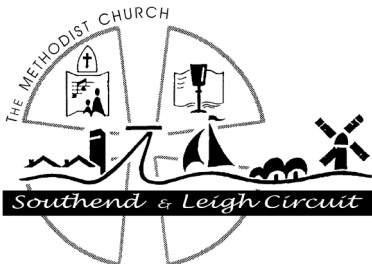


Sunday Worship in February 2016

7th	9.30	Breakfast Fellowship - Rev Julia Monaghan
	11.00	Holy Communion at Wesley Methodist Church - Rev Julia Monaghan
14th Lent 1	10.30	Morning Worship - Kathy McCullough
21st Lent 2	9.00	Holy Communion - Rev Peter Moorhouse
	10.30	Morning Worship - Worship Leaders
28th Lent 3	10.30	Holy Communion - Rev Julia Monaghan

**“S Club” meets at 10.30 am every Sunday
Sunday Club for Children - Crèche available**

No. 811 Vol. LXXVIII



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**Highlands Methodist Church
Hospitality in the Midst of our Community**

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	01268 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
Website :	www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk	

All items for the **March 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 21st February**. Preferably, items may be emailed to frank66thecroft@sky.com *The Highlander* will be ready for distribution on **Sunday 28th February 2016**.





Giving it all up for Lent

We only seem to have taken the Christmas tree down and with Easter so early this year, Lent is upon us. I was talking to someone recently about making preparations for Lent Groups, and they dismissed the whole idea of Lent, saying that they didn't see why giving something up should earn God's forgiveness of our personal failings. In fact, without realising it, they had hit the nail right on the head.

Giving things up for Lent has never been about earning anything from God, least of all forgiveness. The Christian faith is founded on the idea that we can't make reparations for our wrong doings. The whole point of the gospel is that we cannot save ourselves, or earn God's forgiveness through self-sacrifice.

A God who demands that we earn our forgiveness, is very far indeed from a Christian understanding of God. We don't have to read far into the gospels to find Jesus giving a picture of a God of grace and goodness rather than a God of harsh legalism. Yet it seems to be our tendency to believe that a joyless, judgmental God who demands endless penance is more in line to a religious way of being. Perhaps we can't cope with a God who is joyous, generous, forgiving and a giver of good gifts.

The traditional Lenten fast of course was exclusively about food and drink. It fell at the end of winter, when supplies of food were fairly slim. In generations gone by, what was left of the vegetables by February was pretty old, wrinkled and a bit mouldy. Only cabbages and leeks were fresh, so Lent would have been a time of eating them accompanied by significant amounts of bread, porridge and beans!

The Lenten fast was then focused on giving up essentials as opposed to luxuries and statements such as "*life is more than food*," became a reality, as people were deprived of their regular diet. Today at a physical level we seem to have turned Lent into an exercise of self-improvement. I heard somebody saying the other day that it was good that Lent was coming, as they needed to loose weight. Even though a cycle of moderate fasting and restraint is undeniably good for the body, the meaning of Lent is lost if we turn it into a quest for a better body or a regime of fitness.

P.T.O.

For Lent is actually about denying ourselves some of the essentials of everyday life in order to focus on the reality that we depend upon God for life itself. It's about giving ourselves the opportunity to realign ourselves with God and to remind ourselves once again that all we have is a gift from God. If our Lenten fast can be got to grips with and understood well, it will relieve us of the need to try harder, achieve more, or feel more worthy. It will ground us in the knowledge that we are human, and as the Ash Wednesday liturgy reminds us "*we are but dust, and to dust we shall return*", it is good to dwell on how being human is enough under the loving gaze of our God.

Almighty God,
Giver of life and all that we have.
Help us to live in your grace,
Let go of any misunderstanding that we can make ourselves worthy,
And allow you to shape how we see ourselves
And the world around us

Amen

Rev Julia

Lent Course

Rev Julia will lead this year's Lent Course based on Rembrandt's painting of *The Prodigal Son*. Meetings will be at Wesley on a Tuesday afternoon at 2pm. This will be repeated at the Highlands Tuesday evening Housegroup. Meetings will commence on 23rd February.

There will be a Maundy Thursday Section Service at Belfairs on 23rd March at 7.30pm.

We will walk to Wesley on Good Friday to meet with Belfairs for Hot Cross Buns and a Service at 11.00 am

A Beach Service in Old Leigh is proposed for Easter Morning at Day Break followed by a Section Service at Highlands at 10.30 am.

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.



Prayer

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.

Welcome

We welcome Julie Peek as the "Older Peoples Worker" for Highlands and Wesley. Her role is not for pastoral care but has three strands:-

- To promote/coordinate/stimulate activities for older people
- To expand the existing groups
- To enable people to use the internet.

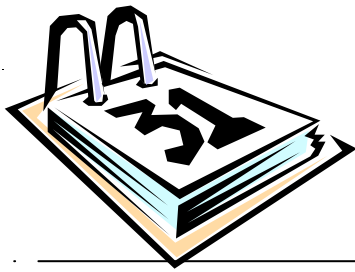
Please make her welcome when she visits us.

Thank You

We have received a letter from Safer Places thanking us for the gifts and toys that were donated at Christmas. They were able to ensure that every woman and child had a selection of presents at Christmas and they will continue to give them out to future clients and at birthday times.

Flower Rota for February 2016

<u>Date</u>	<u>Donated by</u>	<u>In memory of</u>	<u>Arranged by</u>
7th		Joint Service at Wesley	
14th	Dilys Haddow	Elsie Bradford	Hobbies
21st	Meriel Mallet	Tony	Mary Barter
28th	Betty & Arthur Hall	Parents	Jean Edmonds



Dates to Remember

Knit and Natter Social Group

It has been decided amongst ourselves to rename the 'Craft Group' to the above. 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. We support Serving the Homeless by knitting or crocheting squares for blankets and hats and vests for children overseas. You will be made very welcome if you would like to join us.



MOTHs

The meeting on 2nd February will be a lunch at *Affinity Restaurant* at 1.00pm. Please check the notice in the Jubilee Room for further details. On Tuesday 1st March Ros Bryant will talk about Family History. All are welcome at 2.30 pm.

10th Leigh Rainbows & Brownies

10th Leigh Brownies are having a Book Sale and Coffee Morning on Sat 6th February 2016 - 10 a.m. till 12 noon

The Brownies Annual Jumble Sale and Coffee morning will be on Saturday 19th March 2016 - 10 a.m. till 12noon.

Items for either these sales will be gratefully accepted - contact Dilys 710207



Highlands Hobbies

We meet on 4th February for flowers, card making and various crafts. We follow with a bring and share lunch for those who wish. We will also meet on 18th February 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)

Action for Children

Please could the holders of boxes for the above let *Sylvia Cornwell* have them during February for opening. If you would like her to collect it from you please ring her on 01702 556433. Many thanks.

ABRSM Exams

The next session will be 22nd February to 23rd March. A list asking for volunteer stewards will be posted soon.

Future Concerts

Saturday 20th April -

Original Woodwind Ensemble

Saturday 21st May - *Gaudeamus*

Both in aid of kitchen refurbishment.

Future Committee Meetings:-

Property & Finance Committee -

Monday 1st February at 8.00 pm
Church Council -

Thursday 11th February at 8.00 pm

Family Committee -

Wednesday 15th March at **noon**

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

Friday 5th February - Archbishop of Rwanda @ Wesley
Saturday 20th February - Jumble Sale for Christian Hope International also at Wesley

Alternative Worship

Belfairs Methodist Church - "Thirsty For ??" - 2nd Thursday
Next date — 11th February at 7.00 pm

+ + + +

Wesley Methodist Church - Informal Worship - 4th Tuesday
Next date - 23rd February at 8.00pm

Coffee Mornings

6th February - Brownies 20th February - World Missions
plus Book Sale

13th February - Church 27th February - Rangers

Vocations Day

A day of vocational exploration. There will be opportunity to hear from people with a range of vocations both lay and ordained.

You may be considering, or know of individuals who are considering, candidating for diaconal or presbyteral ministry. Equally, this event is for those who would like to explore a journey towards lay ministry or vocational lay employment (eg. as a Pastoral Worker). There will be input on the day from those in ordained ministry and in lay employment, as well as from the Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network.

Alongside the event that we are running within the region we are also sharing in a Vocations Day with London and Southern & Islands regions. Details for both of these dates and a link to book your place are as follows:

Saturday 5 March, 10:00 – 16:00 - Christchurch, Hitchin [Book Now](#)
Bookings close on Monday 29 February 2016.

Saturday 14 May, 10:30 - 13:00 -Chislehurst Methodist Church, London [Book Now](#)
Bookings close on Monday 9 May 2016.

Camino De Santiago – Spring 2017

What?

It's a walking holiday that will have as its destination the city of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, NW Spain. Santiago is an UNESCO World Heritage Site that contains the shrine of St James the Great, now the city's cathedral. It's also the destination of the *Camino de Santiago* (Way of St. James) a leading Catholic pilgrimage route since the 9th century. We'll walk a small part of the Camino, being about 112km (70 miles) from Sarria to Santiago, via Portomarin, Palas de Rei, Arzua and Rúa.

So is it a pilgrimage?

It is whatever you want it to be. For everyone it is 5 days of moderately challenging walking and fellowship, plus a rest day to enjoy Santiago. The spiritual dimension of the journey is personal and different for every person.

Who?

Anyone from Highlands, Wesley or Belfairs, together with friends, is welcome to join us. Andrew Hyde from Highlands will lead the group. He is an experienced walk leader with the UK's largest walking & outdoor holiday provider. Andrew proposes to use a local provider (S-Cape España) to make the main arrangements.

When?

We'll do this in April (possibly May) 2017. At this stage it's difficult to be more precise, but it would be helpful if people interested could state preferences, and any dates they really can't do.

Will it be tough?

Once again that depends on you. The longest day's walking is 27km (17 miles). There are no serious mountains, but you will climb about 330m (1,100 ft) in one day. Galicia is not by any means the hottest part of Spain. In April and May it will be very pleasant for walking (much more so than in the summer).

How?

BA, Iberia and Vueling all fly to A Coruña from Heathrow (and some flights from Gatwick). I can arrange bus transfers to and from the airports at both ends. We don't have to fly. Brittany Ferries go from Portsmouth to Santander. And high-speed rail is also possible, probably with an overnight stop at Irun.

Accommodation

We'll aim for small, reasonably comfortable hotels/guest houses, but not 5★. This is in preference to the *albergues* (pilgrim's hostels with beds in dormitories) that you may have read about.

Money money money?

It's very difficult to say how much it will cost until I get a quote from S-Cape. The very most I would expect is £900 per person including flights and half-board, but not essential insurance or single room supplement.

At the stage of making a commitment, a payment of (say) £100 would be requested. I would look to find a trusted person within the church to share supervision of the money. I expect no personal profit or expense from the trip.

So what should I do now?

If you are seriously interested in joining us

- * Send no money yet
- * Fill in the form below and return it to andrewghyde@aol.com (or print it and drop it in to 21 Thames Drive) before 7 February 2016.

I will then use the numbers to approach S-Cape for a quote for various elements of the trip, work out the final cost and ask for a firmer commitment, and a deposit.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ring me on 01702 473111.

Camino de Santiago Spring 2017

Name(s)

Address

.....

Telephone.....

Mobile

E-mail

Dates you would prefer

Dates you can't do.....

Travel preferenceR Fly+bus o Ferry+rail (2 days) o Rail (2 days) o

I am/we are interested in joining you and understand that there is no commitment at this stage, but that a cash deposit would be necessary in due course.

Signed

With Lent in mind, this famous prayer of Sir Francis Drake may well be an inspiration to our readers...

Disturb us, Lord

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true
Because we have dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely
Because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when
With the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst
For the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life,
We have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision
Of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wider seas
Where storms will show your mastery;
Where losing sight of land,
We shall find the stars.
We ask You to push back
The horizons of our hopes;
And to push into the future
In strength, courage, hope, and love.

Attributed to Sir Francis Drake, 16th Century

Giving Up for Lent

At the end of the vicar's pre-Lent sermon he suggested, as an example to the rest of the community, that the congregation should worship in an unheated church for the whole of Lent. As they made their way into the chill Sunday air the vicar addressed one member of the congregation, asking what she had decided to give up for Lent. "Church," she replied firmly.

Parish Pump

Serving the Homeless

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



DIARY OF EVENTS FOR 2016

24th January	Homelessness Sunday
7 th February	Sunday Lunch at the Park View Suite in Chalkwell Park at 12.30 pm. Tickets £22 per person.
7 th March	Annual General Meeting
9 th April	Quiz Night in St Margaret's Church Hall, Lime Avenue, commencing at 7.30 pm.
25 th May	Meal at East, Alexandra Street, at 7.30 pm.
16 th 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.
July/August	Holiday activity for the children: follow the clues from the Cliffs Pavilion to the Conservation area. Prizes will be awarded for the correct answers.
22 nd October	Italian meal in the upper hall at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Centre.
16 th December	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

Serving the Community 7 Days a Week



Children and Young People

Toddlers Group, Monday	9.30-11.30a.m.	Margaret Wood	557512
		e-mail contact :-	
		highlandstoddlers@hotmail.co.uk	
Rainbows Wednesday	4.00-5.00 p.m.	Karen Packer	474151
Brownies Wednesday:	5.30-7.00 p.m.	Dilys Haddow	710207
Cub Scouts Thursday:	5.45-7.15 p.m.	Ros Miller	557399
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
<i>School Term-Time Only</i>			
Highlands Pre-School Mon - Fri:	9.15 - 12 noon	Clara Mintern	715880

Fellowship Groups

Housegroup meets on Tuesdays.

Services to the Community

Regular Sunday Worship

Midweek Communion at 9.00 a.m. :-

1st Wednesday	Wesley Methodist Church
2nd Wednesday	Belfairs Methodist Church
4th Wednesday	New Road Methodist Church

Tuesday Morning Prayer Service at 9.00 a.m.

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).