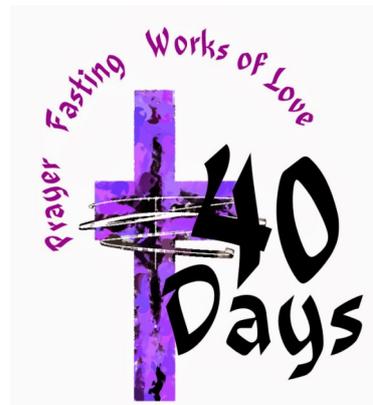


The Highlander

March 2017



LENT

A period of fasting to commemorate Jesus' time in the wilderness.

Twinned with 40 Acts of Kindness

Sunday Worship in March 2017

5th	9.30	Breakfast Time Fellowship <u>at Highlands</u>
Lent 1	<u>11.00</u>	<u>Service of Holy Communion at Wesley</u> - Rev Julia Monaghan
	4.00 pm	Circuit Service at Wesley Methodist Church
12th	10.30	Parade Service - Worship Leaders
19th	10.30	Morning Worship - Jane Fulford
26th	10.30	Service of Holy Communion - Rev Julia Monaghan Mothering Sunday

“ Crafty Church ” meets at 10.30 am on Sundays

For young people - meeting Jesus through art and craft

No. 824 Vol. LXVXIV



Come in and FaceTime with Jesus



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**

Minister	Rev. Julia Monaghan	483827
Secretary to Church Council	Patrick Smith	557702
Church Stewards	Lesley/Andrew Hyde	473111
	Jean/Frank Edmonds	525250
	Steve Jones	553898
	Kathy McCullough	714528
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	
Crafty Church Leaders	Jean Edmonds	525250
	Ros Bryant	478631
Pastoral Co-ordinator	Maureen Kelly	556152
Church Flowers	Jean Edmonds	525250
Lettings/Use of Premises	Les Davis	558381
Mission Enabler for Older Persons	Julie Peek	479804
Website :	www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk	

All items for the **April 2017** 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 19th March 2017**. Preferably, items may be emailed to frank66thecroft@sky.com
The *Highlander* will be ready for distribution on **Sunday 26th March 2017**.



A Message from your Minister **Women's World Day of Prayer**



The Women's world day of prayer (WWDP) is unique. It is the largest ecumenical movement in the world, being the only one where Orthodox, Protestant, Catholic and Evangelical Christians come together to worship and pray for mission. The movement's particular focus is upon the experience of women and children throughout the world. That they might experience the love of God, through a relationship with Christ and that awareness might be raised in terms of women's experience of conflict and discrimination.

The origins of WWDP date back to the 19th century, when Christian women in the USA and Canada initiated a variety of cooperative activities in support of women's involvement in mission at home and abroad. The vision was one of building unity across denominations, with a focus upon the social issues of the day. In 1928, a woman from Scotland called Grace Forgan learned of WWDP and the first services were held in the UK from 1930 onwards. The Second World War was a time of great growth, drawing women together in prayer and fellowship. The reforms of the second Vatican Council enabled Catholic women to take part for the first time in the late 1960s. Today there are over 3000 branches of WWDP across the UK holding over 5000 services.

Each Country has its own national committee and is part of a regional grouping. Every 4 years representatives of these national committees gather in a different area of the world to share experiences of the WWDP; to select themes and writers for the worship services; to make grants to committees and projects that are in real financial need; and finally to consider ways the movement might grow. The last meeting was held in June 2012 in America, where Corinna Harbig of Slovenia was elected as the next president of the movement, along with the countries that over the next 5 years would draw together the material for each year's service.

P.T.O.

So on **Friday 3rd March at 9.30am** the Leigh section will be joining with our ecumenical partners within the town, to enjoy a time of worship and fellowship at St Clements, with a service drawn together for us by Christian women from the Philippines. The theme of the service is "Am I being Unfair to You?" It will have been translated into 1000 different languages and dialects, to be used through out the world. The first service will begin at sunrise in the island of Samoa and continue until sunset off the coast of American Samoa.

In 2013, Typhoon Haiyan, struck the Philippine Islands in the western Pacific Ocean. This will be talked about in the service, but you will also hear of a girl, a mother and an older woman, recounting their situations and their hopes and fears. The service focuses on the bible story of the workers in the vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16) and there will be reflections on the artwork of Rowena Laxamana-Sta. Rosa, who designed the poster at the top of this article.

WWDP always prides itself in saying that it's not just for women and that all are welcome. So come along. Meet new friends, catch up with some old ones, have your consciousness raised and hear about God at work within the Philippines, knowing that your contribution of prayer, makes a difference in bringing about transformational change within God's world.

Rev Julia

Prayers

Lord, forgive us, for we are fragmented persons.

We go many directions at once.

We seek opposite goals; we serve contradictory causes.

We mouth liberation, we live oppression.

We shout peace, we practice violence and anarchy.

We shout justice, we walk in injustice.

We preach love, we practice hate.

Through your compassion have mercy upon us and make us whole.

Enable us to discern your voice among the dissonant voices. Amen

What does the Lord require of us? National Council of the Churches of the Philippines

God of power. God of People.

We are the life of all that lives, energy that fills the earth,
vitality that brings to birth,

the impetus towards making whole whatever is bruised or broken.

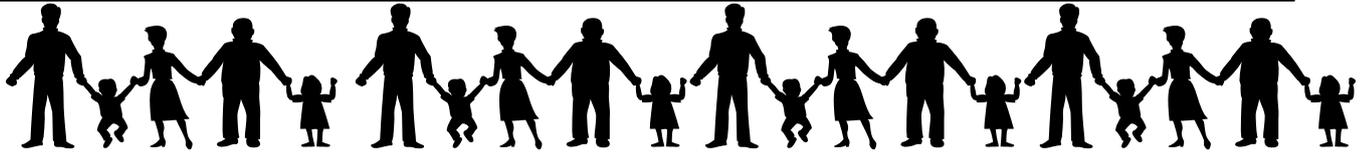
In you we grow to know the truth that sets all creation free.

You are the song the whole earth sings,

the promise liberation brings,

now and forever. Amen

Miriam Therese Winter: "Women Prayer, Women Song" Medical Mission Sisters



Prayer

We pray for our friends who are ill, housebound or bereaved and for those in residential care: Joan Field at *Merrie Loots Farm*, Pat Gare in *Admirals Court*, 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.

Farewell

Sadly Brushstrokes, the Saturday Art Group, will no longer be meeting at Highlands after 18th March. We will miss them, as they have been part of our Saturday Coffee Mornings for many years. We wish them all well.

Rev Alan Ogier

The funeral for the late Rev Ogier at Reigate Methodist Church took place on Monday 6th February. We have obtained a recording of the service which we propose to play after the HUB morning on Wednesday 8th March at about 12.30 pm. All are very welcome.

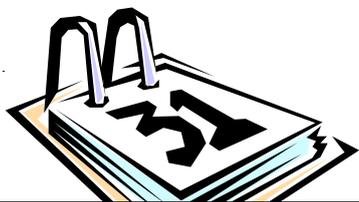
If you are unable to attend the CD will be available to borrow.



Flower Rota for March 2017

<u>Date</u>	<u>Donated by</u>	<u>In memory of</u>	<u>Arranged by</u>
5th	Joint Service at Wesley		
12th	Sylvia Cornwell	Alan	Sylvia & Jean
19th	Rosalie Bryant	Parents	Margaret
26th	Doll Edwards	John	Pauline





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.

Highlands Hobbies

We meet from 10.30 am on 2nd March to continue our activities in arts and crafts, also some flower arranging. We follow with lunch for those who wish to stay. There is always coffee, tea, cake and plenty of chat.

On 16th March we also meet from 10.30 To 12.30 pm.

All are welcome

Jean 525250 - Ros 478631



Action for Children

Could the holders of Action for Children Home Collection Boxes please let Sylvia have them for the annual opening. If you are unable to bring it to the church, please ring me (556433). Alternatively you may like to hand it in to the church premises on Tuesday or Wednesday between 10.00 am and 12 noon.

Thank you.

Many thanks, Sylvia

Future Committee Meetings:

Family - 13th March

Property & Finance - 15th May

Church Council - 14th June

Pastoral - 26th September



MOTHS

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 14th March at 2.15 pm. The speaker will be Ros Bryant on family history. "*Six generations of Methodist Preachers*". Open to anyone who would like to come along and join in.

10th Leigh Brownies

The Brownies will be holding their annual Jumble Sale & coffee morning on Sat 18th March. If you have any jumble for us, you can either bring it along to the hall on Friday (17th) between 6.30 - 8.30p.m. or ring Dilys on 710207 and collection can be arranged.

Please come along and support the  Brownies.

ABRSM Exams

These will recommence from 28th March to 8th April 2017. There is a list in the Jubilee Room for volunteer stewards. Please check to see if you can assist. Thank you.



Other Highlands dates

Sunday 9th April - Palm Sunday
Sunday 16th April 2017 - Easter Sunday
Saturday 27th May - **Highlands Spring Fair**

Circuit Events

Sunday 6th March - Circuit Service at Wesley 4.00pm
Saturday 6th May - District Synod at Rayleigh
Further details in the Jubilee Room
or the Circuit website at
www.southendandleigh.org

Alternative Worship

Belfairs Methodist Church - "Thirsty For ???" - 2nd Thursday
Next date — 9th March at 7.00 pm
+ + + +
Wesley Methodist Church - Informal Worship - 4th Tuesday
28th March at 8.00 pm

Coffee Mornings in March



Saturday 4th	Music at Highlands
Saturday 11th	Missions
Saturday 18th	Brownies and Jumble Sale
Saturday 25th	Action for Children

More Daffodils

I am running on behalf of Thundersley Methodist Church, a trip to Thriplow Daffodil Weekend on Saturday 18th March - the price is £18 which covers the coach and entrance fee to the village. Many items including stalls, gardens open to look round, flower festival, bell ringing, Morris dancing, organ music and of course food and drink and much more.

We are hoping to make a small profit to go towards the funds for the Foyer Extension Project at Thundersley Methodist Church, when once built will be used for the community.

Please let me know if you wish to book any places by the 25th February on 01268 755291 or annelane8@btinternet.com

Monthly Movies @ Highlands

A HIGHLANDS WEDNESDAY HUB EVENT

Weds 22nd March **"CHARIOTS OF FIRE"** 1.30pm

This film is the true account of two of our country's finest athletes, Harold Abrahams and Eric Liddell, who train to run the 100-metre sprint in the 1924 Olympic Games. Success brings honour to their nation but for these two runners the honour at stake is personal and their challenge, one from within.

Winner of four Academy Awards including Best Picture, Chariots of Fire is the inspiring story that brought Britain one of its greatest sports victories.

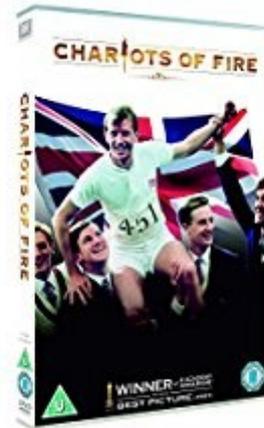
A FREE event (come from 12 noon with your picnic lunch and enjoy some soup. Tea and coffee also available)

Regards

Julie Peek

Mission Enabler for Older People

Wesley & Highlands Methodist Churches



District Synod 6th May 2017

Rayleigh Methodist Church is hosting the Beds. Essex & Herts. District Synod and is looking for help in various capacities. The event is a half day affair and assistance as outdoor or indoor stewards, caterers and audio visual links is required. If you feel that you can help in any way please contact Kathy Burrell, Circuit Secretary, at kathy@burrellkm.plus.com. Thank you.

Course in Spiritual Direction

Leaflets are available in The Jubilee Room and the Church for the course being run from Autumn 2017 to Spring 2019. The aim of the course is to provide an opportunity for course members to grow in spirituality and personal development. Through shared experience, participants will be challenged to a deeper awareness and effectiveness as they help others discover what God is doing in their lives.

LENT COURSE



There will be a lent course running through March and into April.
The topic for the course is '**Receiving Christ.**'

The course will be held at Wesley Methodist Church
in the sanctuary at 2 pm.

- March 7th – Receiving Christ: as children of God
- March 14th – Receiving Christ: in the stranger and the needy
- March 21st – Receiving Christ: in Holy Communion
- March 28th – Receiving Christ: through prayer and fellowship
- April 4th – 'Christ in you, the hope of glory' (Colossians 1:27)

All are welcome.

Lent and Easter Programme

A Lent Group is being held on a Tuesday (see above)

Maundy Thursday - A section meal to be planned

Good Friday - Section Service at Wesley at 11.00 a.m.
Highlands and Belfairs to meet with Wesley
to effect a Walk of Witness
(Hot Cross Buns available beforehand)

Easter Sunday - Strand Wharf Section Service at **8.00 am**
With Salvation Army

10.30 Service at Highlands

Serving the Homeless / Winter Night Shelters

The camp beds at Whittingham Avenue facility have been very well received by the clients. We still require warm clothing to offer and toilet requisites for showers etc. Thank you for all your support to date.

The Serving the Homeless fundraising programme continues on Wednesday 15th March, with a meal at EAST in Alexandra Street, Southend, which is always a popular event. Tickets are now available at £15 per head. Our AGM is on Monday 3rd April, followed by a Quiz Evening on Saturday 6th May. We look forward to seeing you at some of these events.

Thank you for your support of prayers and items at the back of the church, especially as the cold weather looms again.

Highlands Envelope Scheme

Several people already subscribe to the Envelope Scheme at Highlands as a reminder to give regularly to support God's work. If you would like to join for the new year commencing in March please speak with Frank Edmonds. The whole system is confidential.

How God Works

A grandmother was taking her young grandson for a walk in the park. The daffodils were in bloom, and it was a beautiful Spring day. Wanting to encourage her grandson's spiritual understanding of the world, she said: "Doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery? Did you know God did all this?" Her grandson replied: "Oh yes, and God did it left handed, too." In astonishment, the grandmother asked what he meant. "Well, he must have done," said her grandson, "because we learned at Sunday School last week that Jesus sits on God's right hand."



MEMORY WORSHIP

.....
Worship for those with
and without Dementia
.....

2PM - 4PM
3RD MONDAY OF THE MONTH

LENT 2017 : 40 ACTS OF KINDNESS. ARE YOU JOINING IN?

So far the theme of the Sunday service taken by me in February has been about this movement. Both Leigh section churches are in with us.(some quotes follow at the end)
Leigh North Street Primary School is committed. Cameo House Group are joining in as a group effort. Could your House group consider it?
Does it have to be just for Lent?

The idea is so simple. Lent 2017 starts on Ash Wednesday, March 1st and during the 40 days of LENT individuals and groups are invited to do an act of kindness each day. The 40 days finish on Palm Sunday, April 9 as we then lead into HOLY WEEK.

Some of the charities have picked up the idea, e.g. The Trussell Trust asks us to consider giving 40p per day to donate to them to help run Foodbanks. Our own Southend Foodbank is supported by the Trussell trust. OXFAM invites us to COUNT OUR BLESSINGS each day, and donate appropriately. Action for Children is also involved.

QUOTES from discussions in church.

Tell our friends and family how much they mean to us.

Give extra time to those in need.

Ask someone if they need any help.

More phone calls.

Not just for Lent.

Not to give up things for Lent but to major on things we can do.

EVEN IF ONLY SOME OF US PICK UP THIS IDEA IT CAN ONLY DO MORE GOOD IN OUR TROUBLED WORLD.PLEASE CONSIDER. FEEL FREE TO BE FLEXIBLE OVER TIMING. WHAT ABOUT SEEING HOW WE ARE DOING JUST OVER HALF WAY THROUGH? Say March 20? Do let me know.

Eileen.Simmons92@yahoo.co.uk

19.2.17.

This article will continue to be updated as more commitments are made and the idea snowballs. I see this as an opportunity for OUTREACH work and increasing links with our local community.

As at 20.2.17 the Wesley Playgroup are involved and it fits in so well with their own "kind hands" work. Already Jody and Amanda have ideas and will make a display of the children's own ideas and involve every child.

The manager of the Sarah Moore pub. is going to offer help to the Age Concern community club and Lin Boulter from Age Concern will follow through this link.

Someone has signed up to the Jo Cox Commission on Loneliness and will follow the suggestions made. Quote; "It begins with one word, HELLO".

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.	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

Fellowship Groups

Housegroup meets on Tuesdays.

Services to the Community

Regular Sunday Worship

Tuesday Morning Prayer Service at 9.00 a.m.

Midweek Communion :-

2nd Wednesday Belfairs Methodist Church at 9.00 am

3rd Wednesday Wesley Methodist Church at 9.00 am

Highlands Hub : Wednesday from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm in the Jubilee Room

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. Please contact Pamela and Patrick Smith - 557702.

Meerkats save your money

Jesus saves your life!



SIMPLES !

Social and Recreational

Knit and Natter Group Tuesday 10.00 a.m.-12 noon (*Sept.-July*) Sylvia 01702 556433

Badminton Club Monday 8.00 p.m. Sarah 01702 476009

or Sophia 07796 265676

Hobbies 1st & 3rd Thursday 10.30 a.m. - 12.30p.m. Jean 01702 525250

Ladies Badminton Friday 10.00 a.m. Dilys 01702 710207

MOTHs (*Meet on Tuesdays at Highlands*) 2nd Tuesday 2.15 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