



# The **HIGHLANDER**


**June 2020**

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



Smack by Susan Allen Smith

Find more information at: [www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk](http://www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk)

 Highlands (Leigh) Methodist 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 <u><a href="mailto:norman.hooks@methodist.org.uk">norman.hooks@methodist.org.uk</a></u>	311900
Secretary to Church Council	Patrick Smith	557702
Church Stewards	Andrew Hyde Jean Edmonds Steve Jones Kathy McCullough Donald Mayes	473111 525250 553898 714528 473787
Worship Leaders	Jennifer Courtenay Frank Edmonds	556140 525250
Church Treasurer	David Watson	555702
Property Co-ordinator	Anne Lane <u><a href="mailto:annelane8@btinternet.com">annelane8@btinternet.com</a></u>	01268 755291
Children's Workers	Jean Edmonds Ros Bryant	525250 478631
Pastoral Co-ordinator	[Vacant]	
Church Flowers	Jean Edmonds	525250
Lettings/Use of Premises	Les Davis	558381
Older Persons' Worker	Julie Peek	479804

## **From your Minister**



I must admit, when I logged into Andrew's 'Leigh Flower Show' on Friday evening my emotions were a mixture of total delight at the beauty of the stunning floral displays along with sadness that I have never been able to nurture my own garden to such a wonderful standard. At present the only unusual or exotic plant in our garden is the Japanese Knotweed which, I can assure you, is a very unwelcome guest and under a three-year intensive professional treatment!

Friday's beautiful array of flowers however got me thinking; for anything to grow to its full potential the conditions have to be right. In the garden this means the right nutritious soil, along with appropriate sunlight and moisture for the particular species being grown. Life for us as humans is much the same - when a child is born the home is like the soil; their exposure to healthy, loving and enriching relationships is represented by the sunshine, while the moisture can symbolise wholesome food and drink and mental stimulation!

I don't know if anyone ever listens to 'The Life Scientific' on Radio 4 (Tuesdays 09:00). Recently there have been a couple of episodes on the intelligence of plants and how they are able to communicate with each other as a means of protection from threat and danger. I must admit I did start out as very sceptical, moving to agnostic and currently inching towards a believer. The more I listen, look or read about the natural world the more I stand in awe at just how incredible it all is and what a wonderful God we serve.

The analogy of healthy life in the natural world can of course be also applied to any living relationship including those we find



within our church family. Had we been told a couple of years ago that the whole world, including ourselves here in the UK would be going through this lockdown, unable to attend church for months on end, we could reasonably have concluded that the church's ageing congregations could never have survived, and yet, despite all the hardships and pain we are still finding good spiritual soil, the sunlight of God's presence in our times together, whether on Zoom or a phone call from a friend, and the refreshing moisture of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

In last month's Highlander we shared about the financial challenges we have been facing as a church - can I just say what a blessing it has been to see the way so many have responded to that challenge? Our treasurer will bring us up to date later on in this month's Highlander, and I have asked him to keep us in the picture as time progresses.

As you may know, discussions are taking place among our Stewards and Church Council, about how and when we might be able to open up our premises, with information being fed in from the government, the Methodist Connexion, District and Circuit.

This is not going to be an easy call with so many of our community in the vulnerable/at risk category, so let us move on with the prayer that we will be guided by the wisdom of God, and continue to be there for each other, whatever comes our way!

Wishing everyone peace and blessing,

God bless, Norman.



**We pray for** our friends who are ill, housebound or bereaved and for those in residential care: Jean Burgess in *St Martins Care Home*, and Doll Edwards in *The Cedars*. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families.

**We congratulate** Jonathan & Heather Pickford on the birth of Sophie Joy on 13 May at 5:43 am weighing in at 8lbs. A sister for Emma and another granddaughter for Jill and Roger Pickford.

### **We remember**

Marie Moore who died suddenly on 6 May at Rosedale Court, Rayleigh, aged 91. Her daughters Wendy and Janet provided the following tribute:

*Mum ended her days in a nursing home, alert and interested to the last, but today we want to celebrate that her long life encompassed so much more: over the years she was involved with politics, had a passion for cricket and football and won prizes for floral art. With a*



*sweet voice she sang in several choirs and loved working with small children – always championing the underdog and reaching out to the underprivileged with compassion.*

*Evacuated to Norfolk at the start of WW2, Marie did her best to look out for George, her younger brother. She found solace in her natural surroundings, developing a love of flowers which she enjoyed recreating in delicate watercolours and that later found expression in the gardens of the homes that she and Don made over the years.*

*Marie was a devoted wife and a tender and supportive mother and grandmother, and her family here today are all thankful for her gentle influence.*

The family invites friends who wish to do so to make a donation in Marie's memory to **Greenfingers Charity**, which is dedicated to supporting children in hospices, and their families, by creating inspiring gardens for them. Learn more (and donate if you wish) at <https://www.greenfingerscharity.org.uk/>

We also remember Keith Dann who served the Southend & Leigh circuit for many years.

Our sympathy goes to their families and friends

## **Snippets**

### Knit & Natter

It's a long time now since we all met together on Tuesday mornings but throughout this time we have all managed to keep in touch with each other, but we've kept up the 'Natter' by telephone.

This has helped to keep our spirits up through this difficult time especially the ones of us who live alone. I'm not sure how much knitting has been done as we have been blessed with such lovely weather and been able to make good use of our gardens. We look

forward to getting together again as soon as we are able to but until then the telephone lines will continue to buzz as we continue to support each other.

*Sylvia Cornwell*

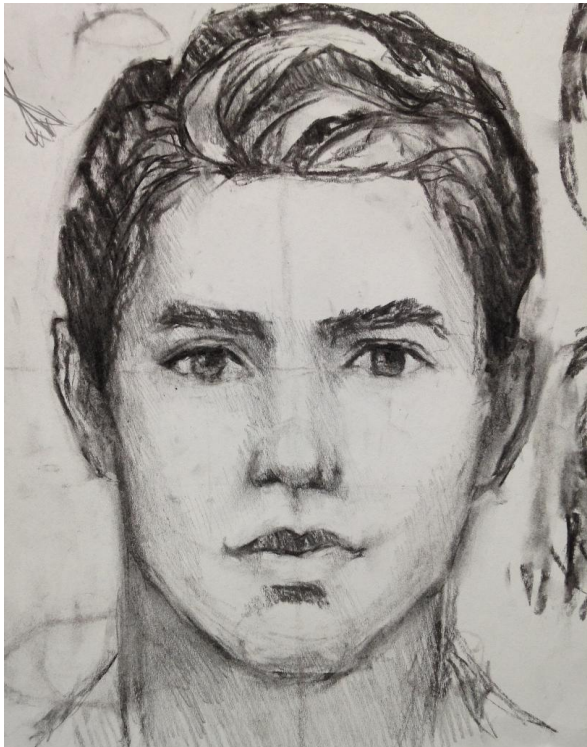
### Highlands Cards...

...are still available by telephoning Jean Edmonds (525250) Ros Bryant (478631) or Margaret Wood (557512).

*Margaret*

### Thursdays Art Group

Sue Allen (who created the artwork below and on the cover) has adapted to lockdown and brought a new dimension.



The classes have a chosen area of interest; for example, perspective, reflections in watercolour, pencil drawing and shading and acrylic . The sessions are two hours with Sue providing a continuous interactive demonstration and feedback.

In return we donate, but like Sunday as much of the enjoyment and support is in the fellowship and light-hearted time.

You can reach Sue by email at [susan\\_allen\\_smith@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:susan_allen_smith@yahoo.co.uk)

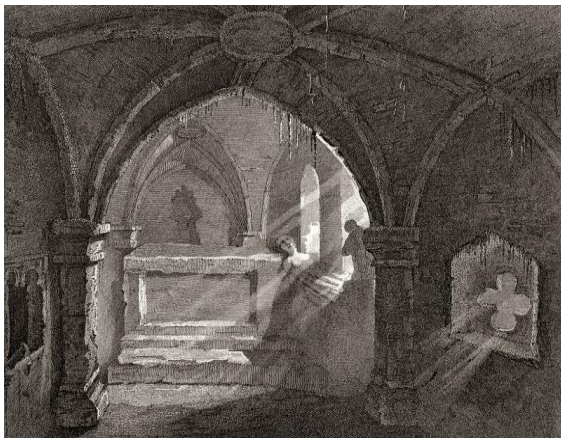
*Richard King*

### **From the Editor**



The village of Warkworth in Northumberland (if you don't know it already) is well worth visiting once the present crisis ends. There is lots to see - an imposing castle, a beautiful street leading up to it, a Norman church and many welcoming shops and other spending opportunities.

Another of the village's highlights is the walk from Warkworth Bridge, upstream along the south bank of the River Coquet. This takes you underneath the castle and soon you discover the



hermitage, hewn out of the rock in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Here, for many years, Christians came in search of peace and isolation, probably relying on gifts of food left wordlessly by the villagers. Most inhabitants of the hermitage were however only temporary; eventually the need for human contact and fellowship was overwhelming.

By contrast, the self-isolation of Carthusian monks was, and is, for life. Although living together, they follow strict daily routines that are conducted alone and in silence. This however is broken once a week by the *spatiamentum*, an extended walk lasting three or four



hours. During the walk they talk freely, walking in pairs and changing partners every half-hour. So, during a spatialementum each monk will converse with eight others, usually in a light-hearted and simple vein. This provides not only physical space and exercise, but also an essential break from what is otherwise an extremely solitary life. Only the ill or infirm are granted leave to miss this weekly convention.

Nowadays, at Highlands especially, our spatialementum takes many different forms including handicrafts, making music, sports, cooking and drinking coffee. Etcetera, etcetera. As John Donne wrote (in 1623, so his spelling is of the time)

*No man is an Iland, intire of it selfe; every man is a peece of the Continent, a part of the maine*

As much as is possible, we are trying to keep both our worship and our spatialementum going by using technology. In the service of these goals we have recruited Zoom, YouTube, WhatsApp, Google Meet and not least the unpretentious telephone, patented 144 years ago by the worthy Alexander Graham Bell from Edinburgh.

But not all of us can benefit from these technological marvels. It does not matter why not. And of course, the virtual service or virtual spatialementum is not, and never will be, an adequate replacement for the real thing. So we will still hanker for warm human contact. But more strongly, the thought of those who cannot join us, in any way, will tug at our heartstrings.

However we will telephone if we can, write to you if we can, greet you in these pages. If you are feeling lonely now, please know that you are not forgotten for even a minute by your Saviour or by your friends at Highlands. It is only a matter of time before we can meet again. And soon.

*Andrew*

## **Puzzle of the Month**<sup>1</sup>

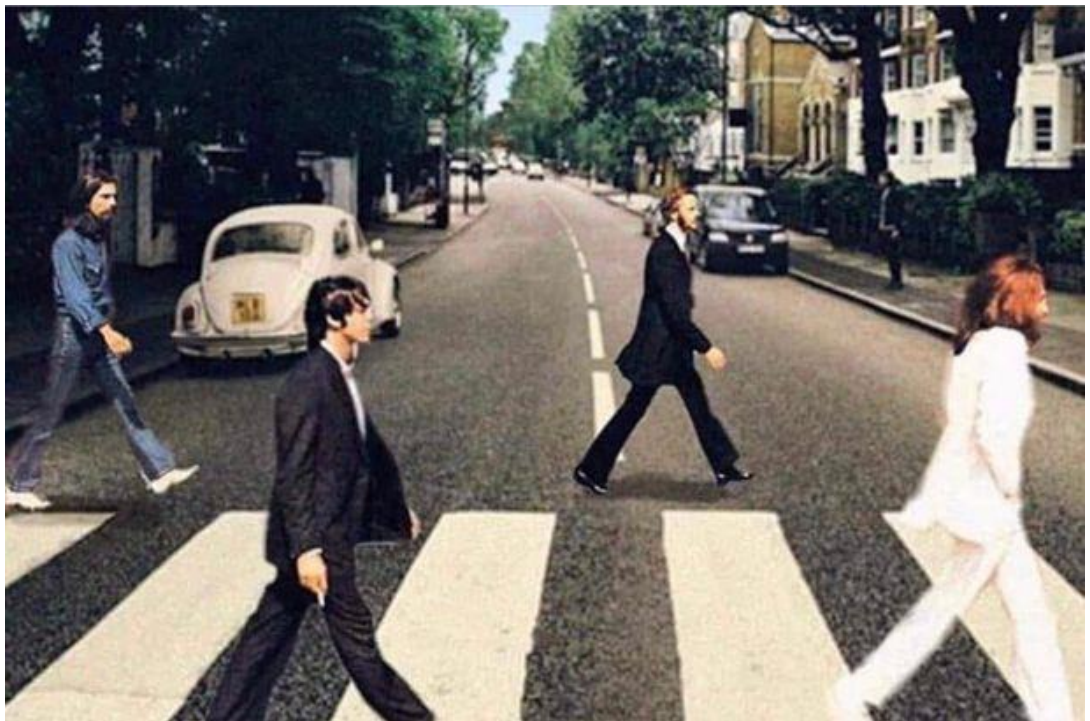
Tabloid newspaper headlines use a version of the English language that is all their own. Jobs are 'axed', buildings suffer a 'blaze' and anything unexpected is a 'shock'. The intent is of course to lure the reader in to the article. Here is a real headline from 1936 in the Chicago Sun-Times:

### **KING'S MOLL RENO'D IN WOLSEY'S HOME TOWN**

All you have to do is say what major news story this was referring to.

## **Humour Corner**

Social  
Distancing  
hits Abbey  
Road NW3



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<sup>1</sup> Answer on p26

## **Poem (1) for June**

### **Easter 2020 by Anna Turner**

Anna Turner from Canvey works for Arab World Ministries (AWM) in Beirut, a mission to meet the increasing cry from Arab world Muslims to share with them the good news of Jesus Christ for over 140 years. You can find out more about AWM at <https://www.awm-pioneers.org>. Anna frequently writes poetry, and you can hear her read this her latest work at <https://youtu.be/eK6Rgm9iOW0>. Many of you will know Anna's dad Colin Turner who is Pastor of Canvey Methodist Church.

### **Easter 2020**

There will be books written about this,  
Documentaries made, history exam questions set,  
And yet, living through history has not quite met my expectations.  
Hindsight robs uncertainty of its power,  
But no-one tells that in the midst of history-making, uncertainty is  
Queen,  
And she holds sway over a kingdom untouched by hindsight,  
The place of half expressed fears, misinformation parading itself as  
truth.

She fires questions, like arrows that make wounds, which we have  
no answers to soothe.  
How many? Why? Where? Who?  
How are the jobless going to buy food?  
It feels like I will be buried under a barrage of today's latest bad  
news,  
Sitting at home with nothing better to do than scroll through the  
dreads of infections and deaths,  
But I cling on by my fingernails to the hope that this kingdom of  
uncertainties  
May be all I can see, but it is not all there is.

There is a deeper truth another Kingdom of glory and of promise  
That I glimpse in morning sunrises over quiet spring streets,  
In plants growing from seeds on my balcony,  
Life bursting from death in green cacophony,  
New shoots curling up from unpromising looking shells,  
Light bursting out from darkness's deep wells.

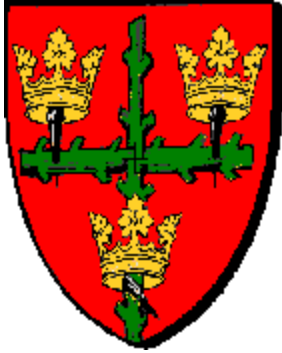
Yes! I choose to fix my eyes on this unseen Kingdom.  
And when uncertainty threatens to rob me of believing  
I cling on by my fingernails to a thread of the robe of the King  
Who leapt into darkness, but rose dripping with light,  
And so knows both the depths of the darkness and the power of the  
light,  
The pain of suffering and the truth of sun rising over the world after  
the darkness of night.

I choose to build my foundations in this unseen Kingdom,  
So that even before this becomes a chapter in history, uncertainty's  
power cannot keep me!  
I belong to another Kingdom, deeper than suffering, stronger than  
uncertainty,  
Promising sunrise from darkness, and from death, eternity.

*©Anna Turner 2020*

*Be strong and work for I am with you, declares the Lord Almighty.*

Haggai 2:4



## **Visit to Colchester – Early March 2020** **Anne Lane**

Ros and I decided we would go away for a few days but not to go too far because of the time of year. I picked Ros up from the hospital after her session in the gym and went straight off to a Premier Inn in Colchester. Unfortunately, it was drizzling and as it was later, we got caught in the rush hour on the A12! We eventually arrived at about 6.15 pm. We later went next door to The Albert (Beefeater) to have our evening meal.

Next morning it was still drizzling. We decided to walk into Colchester to have a look round. I'd never been. Walking around the shops first included popping into Gregg's for a coffee. It was huge – entrances at both end of the shop with 3 counters!! A bit different to the Rayleigh branch that we frequent.

After coffee we went to the Natural History Museum, which an old church houses; quite interesting about the local wildlife habitats. We



Hollytrees House

then went on to Hollytrees a Georgian House built in 1718. It is a museum of historic toys, clocks and paintings. It was interesting looking at the long case clocks dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century which were mostly built by the watchmakers of Colchester.





Colchester Castle

After lunch we went to Colchester Castle. A bit of history coming up - Colchester's history dates back over two thousand years. It was Britain's first city and former capital of Roman Britain. Colchester Castle is the largest keep Norman keep in Europe. It

was constructed on the foundations of the Temple of Claudius. There are archaeological collections covering 2,500 years of history shown in the castle. History lesson over.

While in the castle I had a go at taking the reins and driving in the chariot race round the forum stadium. The first couple of times I came last, basically because I was driving the horses and chariot in the walls at either side of the race track. But by the third attempt I came second! I wanted to have another go but by this time Ros had moved on. Don't worry - no actual horses were hurt in my driving the chariot - it was a large scale 'Son et Lumière' projection onto the wall with light and sound.

After seeing other collections, we decided to go back to the Premier Inn as it was still pouring with rain and returned somewhat damp. Friday's weather was much better with sun and cloud. We decided to go to Clacton on Sea - I haven't been to Clacton since Girls' Brigade camp days. Funnily enough we found a car park just up the road from the United Reformed Church where we used to stay. Ros and I approached the pier intending to walk to the end, but the only part open was, of course, the amusements. We walked along the sea front and Ros walked nearly into Jaywick.

Saturday came and it was time to come home. We did have time however to call in at Abberton Reservoir - 'Essex Wildlife Trust

works in partnership with Essex & Suffolk Water to provide conservation and wildlife knowledge around the whole reservoir.'

While we were there, we saw models of characters from Brambly Hedge and several birds including mallards, moorhens, pheasants, tufted ducks, blue tits, great tits, chaffinch, gulls and a kestrel. After lunch we took the scenic route home going through Tolleshunt D'Arcy, Goldhanger, Maldon, South Woodham Ferrers and home via the A130.

We hope to go back to Colchester at some point when the weather is better to see other places around Colchester.

*Anne Lane.*

## **Humour Corner**

Some traffic news announcements that have probably never happened. But who knows?

- On the A13 a lorryload of raspberries has collided with a lorryload of sugar, causing an enormous jam. Drivers should stick to the inside lane
- Report just in: a van has spilled its load of cold remedy on Marine Parade. Essex Police are reporting no congestion.
- On the A127 a lorryload of shoe polish has shunted an ice-cream van. Drivers should look out for black ice.

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts.

2 Thessalonians 3:16-17

## **Serving the Homeless**



Fundraising is at a standstill during lockdown, but we have received a contribution from Waitrose, Leigh from the green disc collection held during March. We received £384, which is a remarkable sum, considering that our collection was sharing with Fair Havens Hospice.

As a result, we have been able to continue with our monthly contribution to HARP for fresh meat, butter, and milk, albeit that we have supplied a cheque for them to make the purchase themselves. From our reserves we have been able also to support the work of SVP<sup>2</sup>, which you will have seen from the local papers has been providing exceptional care to the homeless and hungry during these difficult times.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers as we anticipate an easing of lockdown and the opportunity to regroup and continue with our mission.

*Frank Edmonds*

## **Christian Aid**

Thank you to all for your generous donations to Christian Aid. Our Church Treasurer, David, says we have collected £565.00 to which we will be able to add £71.00 in Gift Aid donations. Many people also donated online, an easier and safer option at this time. I will ensure that Highlands donation and Gift Aid forms are sent soon to help with Christian Aid's vital work, especially at this difficult time.

*Jean Edmonds*

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<sup>2</sup> The Society of St Vincent de Paul is an international charity affiliated to the Catholic church whose aim is to tackle poverty through direct practical assistance.

## **Dine with the homeless**

We mainly produce desserts for the ongoing SVP project that provides (along with One Love Soup Kitchen) food for the rough sleepers put up in hotels and B&Bs. About 160 hot meals go out each day. Food comes into the centre at Short Street from various sources. I did see that last week's Thursday evening collection from the Marine Estate went to Short Street. I know also that supermarkets including Waitrose, M&S and Morrisons donate out of date fruit and veg.

Recently there was a donation of several boxes of aubergines – could anyone use them? We offered to cook a moussaka dish for 37 people for the Tuesday evening and the boxes were thrust into our arms. We managed to use most of them but what were we to do with the rest? **Aubergine Curry** was the answer:

### **Ingredients (serves 2)**

- 1 large aubergine, sliced into 1cm rounds
- 1 tsp ground cumin,
- 1 tsp ground coriander,
- ½ tsp ground turmeric
- 2 tbs tomato paste or purée
- ½ green chilli
- 1 tsp chopped ginger
- 2 tsp caster sugar
- 4 spring onions chopped
- coriander shredded

Mix the spices and 1 tsp salt in a small bowl and then rub into the aubergine slices. Make sure all the slices are well covered and use all the mix.

Mix the tomato purée, chilli, ginger and 150ml water together.

Heat 1 tbsp oil in a frying pan and fry the spicy aubergine slices until golden. This will take up to 10 minutes. Add the tomato puree etc. mix, bring to a simmer, cover and cook for 15 mins until aubergine cooked through. Add more water if it gets too dry<sup>3</sup>.

When cooked, serve with rice and sprinkle chopped spring onions

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<sup>3</sup>For the last 2 minutes I also add a handful of frozen cooked prawns to add an extra flavour.

and coriander.

### **A Treasurer writes:**

Following the appeal for donations I am pleased to advise that there has been a magnificent response. The amount received since lockdown has reached £7,096. Donations ranged from £10 through to £5,000. Thank you all for your generosity.



Additionally, some have set up or increased their Standing Orders, sent their Envelope offerings or made *ad hoc* offerings. Thank you all. These donations and offerings should keep us going for a few months during these uncertain times.

If you would like to set up a Standing Order, or convert from envelope giving to a Standing Order or make a donation direct to the Church please use the following Bank details:

**Account Name:** Highlands Methodist Church.

**Sort Code** 30-94-26

**Account number** 00516684

Alternatively, if you wish to donate by cheque make this out to Highlands Methodist Church and post or deliver to me at:  
David Watson 47 Berkeley Gardens, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 2TD

You can also use the above method to post or deliver a cheque relating to envelope payments. Either send the envelopes themselves with the cheque or retain for recording purposes. Envelope system cash or indeed any cash is acceptable. This of course needs to be delivered.

Thanks to you all.

Stay Alert

*David Watson*



## Some Highlights from the Leigh Chelsea Flower Show

Tim Francis's Philadelphus

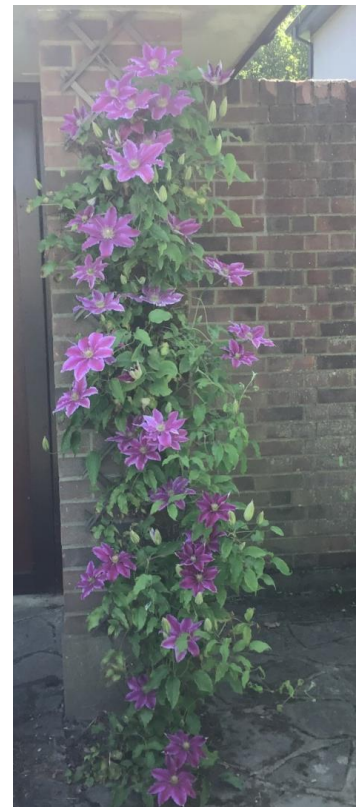


Julie's sweet-smelling honeysuckle.  
(Unfortunately, scents cannot be offered online. Yet)



Teresa's amazing bloom

Jean's welcoming clematis





## **Jobs for the Garden** **From our Special Gardening Correspondent**

I did so enjoy looking at the photos of Leigh's Chelsea Flower Show. What a bunch of talented gardeners we've got. And haven't we made the best of being locked in?

There's so much to keep us busy this time of year but it's been a little too hot for me, so I've spent enjoyable afternoons reading in the shade. I constantly give thanks that I have my garden.

My roses are in bloom – I do so love roses and if you deadhead them regularly, they will continue to flower for a longer period. I try not to just pull off the dead petals but to take off the deadhead with my snips, right back to the next leaf. And it's not just the roses that need this treatment; do cut off the dead flowers from all your annuals and perennials.

I haven't managed to get to a garden centre yet, but I'm very thankful for the local shops that are selling plants and compost. I bought 2 little pots of dianthus and when I came to plant them out, I managed to divide each of them into 3 separate plants. This led me to have a look at the other pinks in my garden and





take cuttings. Hopefully they will root over the next few weeks and I'll be able to plant them out for an even better show next year.

I'm also going to be taking cuttings from other softwood plants – fuchsias, penstemons. I might even try a hydrangea. These cuttings need to be about 8 cm long. I use hormone rooting powder to help them along. Put the cuttings in compost just up to the level of the first leaves and keep them warm – but not scorching – and humid. They should root within 2 - 4 weeks. Keep feeding, keep planting seeds and keep enjoying your time in the garden

*SGC*

## **Biographical Notes**

### **Michael Eavis, founder of The Glastonbury Festival**

The last week of June/ first week of July is usually the most exciting two weeks of the year for me because our family go to Glastonbury Festival. Robin has been going since he was a teenager and we both went when just married. When our children came along, we took them too. I worked for a timber company that supplied materials to the site, so we could go and enjoy the festival at the hospitality of Greenpeace.

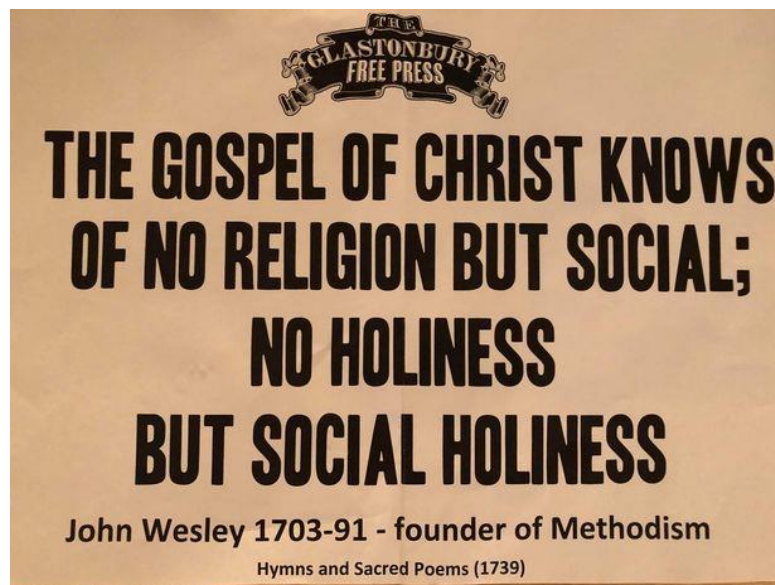


When my job changed, we could no longer get these 'like Gold dust' tickets. So, Robin went looking for another way to be part of the festival, and this is how I started working at Glastonbury festival as a member of the recycling crew. We are allowed on site before the public. We pitch our tents in a staff field (with showers, toilets and 24 hr tea urn on the go), enjoy the festival and then on the Monday check in for the first of my 4 six-hour shifts in the

Glastonbury Recycling Centre. We are kitted out with full PPE<sup>4</sup> and our job is to sort the festival waste for recycling. At last year's festival, single-use plastics were banned from all areas of festival.

When I first went to Glastonbury I had no idea that Michael Eavis, the dairy farmer and founder of Glastonbury Festival, was a Methodist. I have heard him speak on a number of occasions and he explains his values for creating the festival. He talks about how centuries-old Methodist principles have shaped him and the Glastonbury Festival we see today.

Michael is 84 years old and was born into what he describes as a good old-fashioned Methodist working-class family. His mother was a headmistress; his father was a local preacher and ran the farm. Having an obligation towards society was central to his family. The social attitude, rather than the faith, became the most important thing. The fabric of society, housing, the nation's health and caring for people worse off than his family were the general themes of the household.



This is a favourite John Wesley quote of Michael's. Glastonbury Festival has funded the construction of new social housing in Pilton, which Michael has described as 'the best thing he has ever done'.

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<sup>4</sup> Three months ago I would've had to explain that abbreviation; not now!

Along with the festival and his cows, another great passion of Michael's is getting young people involved in Methodism. He says 'Methodist principles build up self-esteem,' and 'it's sad to see a lot of kids struggling with that these days. Self-esteem is really

important; you need to feel good about yourself, and then good things happen.'



He is also very proud to have been made a patron of the New Room in Bristol, which was the first Methodist chapel ever built.

One year when I had completed my last recycling shift before my long drive home, I decided to find Pilton Methodist Chapel to find the origins of the Glastonbury festival. Here it is, overlooking the Festival site in the Vale of Avalon...

As to this year's Glastonbury Festival, I am currently in the process of convincing my husband to pitch a tent in our back garden for two weeks, but I am not quite sure it will be the same.

*Julie Peek*

*Whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable ... think about such things.*

Philippians 4:8

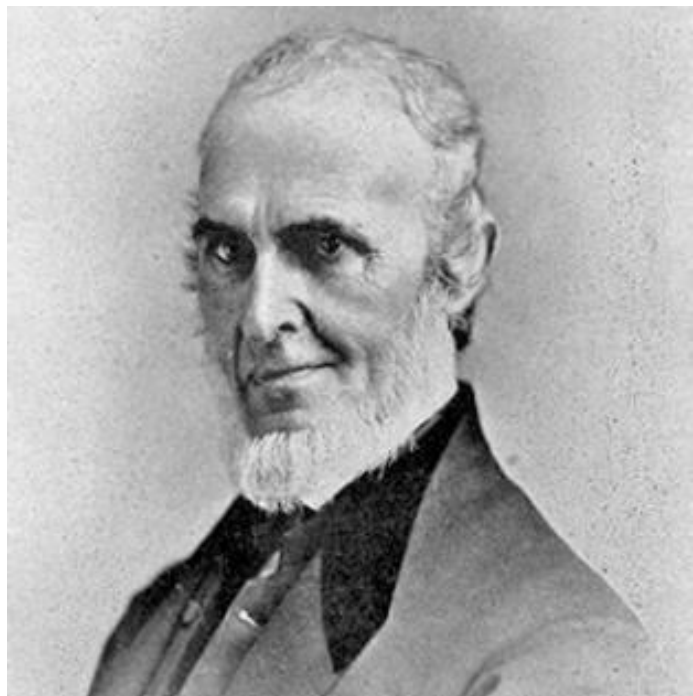


## **Poem (2) for June**

### **Don't Quit by John Greenleaf Whittier (1807 – 1892) alt Edgar Albert Quest (1881 - 1959)**

I had two poems submitted for this spot, from Daphne and Shirley who are neighbours. Though they are both phonaesthetes, they cannot agree on a favourite. So this month you get a double bonus. This is Shirley's pick. Daphne's is later.

This work was originally written by Whittier, one of America's so-called Fireside Poets, who produced two collections of anti-slavery poems. This version is altered and expanded by Quest, a British-born poet who emigrated to America and became popular in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Known as the People's Poet, his poems often had an inspirational and optimistic view of everyday life.



### **Don't Quit**

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,  
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,  
When the funds are low and the debts are high,  
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,  
When care is pressing you down a bit,  
Rest, if you must, but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns,  
As every one of us sometimes learns,  
And many a failure turns about,  
When he might have won had he stuck it out.  
Don't give up though the pace seems slow  
You may succeed with another blow.

Often the goal is nearer than,  
It seems to a faint and faltering man,  
Often the struggler has given up,  
When he might have captured the victor's cup,  
And he learned too late when the night slipped down,  
How close he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out  
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,  
And you never can tell how close you are,  
It may be near when it seems so far,  
So, stick to the fight when you're hardest hit  
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.

## **Humour Corner**

999 Operator  
*Emergency – what service to you require?*

Caller  
*Err... I'm not sure. I need help to round up 19 cows.*

999 Operator  
*Certainly caller. That would be 20 cows.*

## **Puzzle of the Month**

The answer is The Abdication Crisis. We can analyse the headline in three parts

- King's Moll. A 'moll' was in 1930s US slang the female companion of a gangster (or something even less wholesome). The only king of any interest to US readers at this time would have been Edward VIII.
- Reno is the State Capital of Nevada. At this time the state laws allowed divorce after six weeks of residency instead of six months elsewhere in the US. So Nevada divorces were common, and to be Reno'd was to be divorced.
- Wolsey's Home Town. Henry VIII's favourite (for a while), Cardinal Wolsey, was born the son of a butcher in Ipswich, Suffolk (but things didn't end well for him).

In 1936 Wallis Simpson (girlfriend of Edward VIII) was seeking a divorce, in order to marry him. To avoid the press, she wanted the divorce petition heard at the most obscure place possible – hence Ipswich. Unluckily for Wallis, a young freelance reporter called Johnny Johnson (who had been asked to track her) saw her entering the court building and followed. Wallis got her divorce, bringing about Edward's abdication, but Johnson obtained a huge worldwide scoop.

Later in his career Johnson was able to cover an even more sensational story. He was ordained in the C of E and became vicar of Dedham from 1950 to 1971, and died in 1997.

As for the Chicago Sun-Times, they heralded the next major development in the story with an equally snappy headline:

### **KING WILL WED WALLY**

Which he did. And the rest, as they say, is history.

## **Poem (3) for June**

### **Leisure**

#### **William Henry Davies (1871–1940)**

Daphne chose this verse by a popular Welsh poet who spent some of his life as a tramp. Her father, Edwin Kerr, used to tell her that everyone seems to be 'rushing about these days'. People don't take time, he would say, to just stop and notice the beauty around them. Daphne says 'Let's hope we are doing that now, and even when lockdown is relaxed, we will still take time to be grateful and care for the world around us.'

### **Leisure**

What is this life if, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare?  
No time to stand beneath the boughs  
And stare as long as sheep or cows.

No time to see, when woods we pass,  
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.  
No time to see, in broad daylight,  
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.

No time to turn at Beauty's glance,  
And watch her feet, how they can dance.  
No time to wait till her mouth can  
Enrich that smile her eyes began.

A poor life this if, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare.

## **SERVING the COMMUNITY 7 Days a Week**

**Children and Young People**

**Fellowship Groups**

**Services to the Community**

**Social and Recreational**

These services are suspended at the moment. We hope of course that they can be restored soon.

For updated news keep following

[www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk](http://www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk)

or  Highlands (Leigh) Methodist Church

also [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk) is an excellent source of information and inspiration.

Items for the July 2020 issue should be emailed to [andrewghyde@aol.com](mailto:andrewghyde@aol.com) before Sunday 21 June. No email? Don't despair; just telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.

*He will cover you with his feathers and under his wings you will find refuge.*

Psalm 91:4