



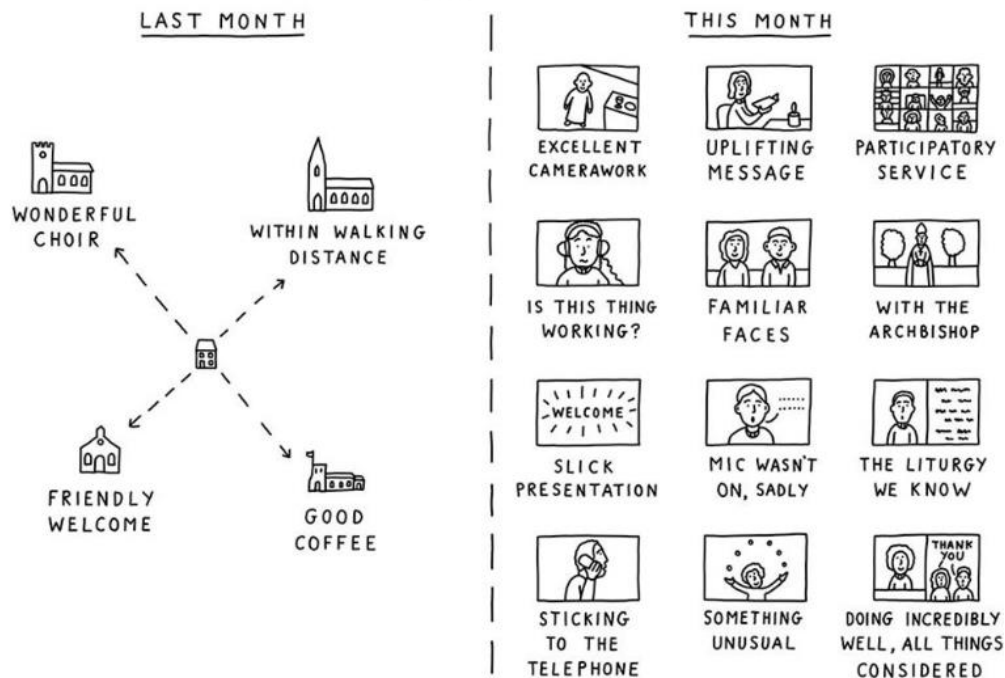
The HIGHLANDER

August 2020

The monthly newsletter of Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh on Sea

CHOOSING A CHURCH

THE OPTIONS



Cartoon by Dave Walker for Church Times

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



Highlands (Leigh) Methodist Church



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Highlands Methodist Church Hospitality in the Midst of our Community

All telephone numbers are '01702' unless stated

Minister	Rev Norman Hooks norman.hooks@methodist.org.uk	311900
Secretary to Church Council	Patrick Smith	557702
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 annelane8@btinternet.com	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

Stop Press

As many of you know, Norman is moving on from Highlands in order to be involved with the Experience Project. He explains more about this in the message below.

His appointment finishes on 31 August. On 1 September Pastor Steve Mayo, who has been a regular and welcome preacher at Highlands, will take up ministry here, in addition to his ongoing responsibility for Wesley Church in the town centre.

A fuller appreciation will appear in next month's edition.

From your Minister

Life is often divided up into seasons. We talk about the 'baby boomers', the 'millennials', 'generation x' etc., however at a much more personal level we usually find our lives divided into periods of time which can be quite different for each of us.

For example, some will identify the seasons of their lives as - before and after children. For others it will be more career based - university life... first job... another major step though a different career or promotion.

For myself I look at the ebb and flow of my life in many different ways - different places we have lived - Derbyshire, Stockport, Northumberland, Somerset, Scotland, Ireland, Chelmsford, Bristol, and Buckingham before finding our way to Southend. Seasons of study and work - in engineering, Bible College, youth ministry, Bible Teacher, Itinerant Preacher, studying for a teaching degree, years as a secondary school teacher, ministry training, ministry in Buckingham and then Southend leading up to retirement... and then... Highlands!

Sadly for me my short time as your minister is drawing to a close now and this will be my last contribution to the Highlander as your minister. I'm not one for drawn out goodbyes, mainly because I always have so many people to whom I want to say a massive 'thank you', and I know I am bound to miss someone out or get something wrong!

So then all I want to say is how precious it has been sharing these past 2+ years seeking God's heart and moving together into a little more of His advancing Kingdom. You guys are amazing, and it has been such a privilege to serve alongside you. There is so much about Highlands I will miss!

The next challenge for me is to work with Simon Matthews and his team at the Experience Project out of the premises at Whittingham Avenue, which is just round the corner from where I live. As some of you know, this is a community that has been very much on our hearts since Jan and I came to Southend. As hard as it is for me to move on from Highlands, the sense of calling to the folks who live on the Bournes Green Estate is something that has never left me, and I am very excited at the thought of being involved in the next phase of what God wants to do in this precious community.

I will continue to pray for the work at Highlands and follow with interest what God is doing among you under Pastor Steve's leadership.

In friendship,

Norman

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you saying:

'This is the way, walk in it.'

Isaiah 30:21



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 Phil & Laura Barter on the safe arrival of Maeve Kelly Mary on 8 July, weighing in at 9lb 5oz. A sister for Peter and a niece for Ester.

We thank everyone concerned in the care of Trevor Metcalfe. He has had two operations since last month and remains very ill but is receiving the best possible care in Southend Hospital.

Snippets

A 'Heads-Up'

All you good folks with glasses - be careful removing your face masks. I whipped mine off; glasses came with it and flew down to the floor where they parted company with one of the lenses. I had great difficulty retrieving the lens, being partially sighted and frightened of standing on it.

I took my glasses into the optician on our parade at Thames Drive area, but I am not a client there. The lady was not going to fix my glasses. She said with the COVID 19, they would only serve their own customers.

I played the 'partially sighted poor old dear' and eventually she

agreed to fix them. I was quite happy to pay. It only took a couple of minutes and eventually a donation in their charity box sufficed.

Maureen Kelly

Highlands Hobbies

An invitation to the Hobbies members to meet in the garden of Jean and Frank, 66 Woodside, on Thursday 6 August from 10:30 am. There will be plenty of room to socially distance and hand gel will be available.

You may wish to do some flower arranging or just come to catch up with your friends. You are very welcome to bring your own picnic lunch. If you wish to come, please contact us.

Jean 525250

Julie 479804

Cards

Ros Bryant and Margaret Wood still hold a lovely selection of cards for all occasions. If you are finding it difficult to shop at this time, they will be happy to make a selection available to you

Ros Bryant 478631

Margaret Wood 557512

MenCap Showstoppers

Here at Showstoppers we are over the moon to have restarted our groups. It is a little difficult following the guidelines, but everyone is doing their very best to make it work. So far, we have 50% of our students back, with others returning when they feel comfortable to do so. It's been a very strange few months and it will take a while to restore everyone's confidence; but restore it we shall.

Our focus for the next few weeks is to enable our students to begin communicating again. We have discovered, in the few days we've been back, that many of our students have retreated into a bit of a shell, uncertain exactly what they are allowed to do. Restoring every day relaxed and positive interaction with others is a number one priority over the coming weeks. Once we have achieved that goal everything else will follow.

Andrew Watson
Showstoppers

From the Editor

Many of you will have seen the recent BBC news report on a 9-year old Syrian girl called Rouaa. Five years ago, she and her family fled a chemical attack on their home town. Rouaa has spent that time in a Lebanese refugee camp. The report showed that finally Rouaa and her family had been accepted and given a place to live in the UK. Rouaa was filled with excitement: *'I'm happy because I have a bed to sleep in'*, she said. She was also delighted that she would go to school soon for *'good education'*.



I was heartened and uplifted by the story. My pleasure was only slightly dampened by BBC reporter Caroline Hawley saying:

'I've been asked not to say where they have been settled; there is some hostility towards immigrants.'

I also saw a recent report on several boatloads of migrants being intercepted in the English Channel. But when I think about my reaction to this story, it's radically different. I feel rather grumpy about it; the law is being flouted, unfair advantage taken and (worst of all here in Britain) a queue jumped.



So why do I feel happy about the good fortune of one individual, but somewhat resentful about the success of many? There is no logic or sense in that. But it seems that I am not the only person suffering an empathy fail. Hostility towards immigrants is not confined to Rouaa's new neighbours. Has anyone else heard a comment on the lines of this one?

'Well of course they all want to come here to claim benefits.'

I'm really not sure that's true. Many who come to these shores turn out to have been trained as lawyers, engineers, teachers, physicians. And, with the best will in the world, few will have had any chance of working to support themselves and their families in the refugee camps of Lebanon and Turkey.

The answer to my questions is exactly where you'd expect to find it; famously in Matthew 22:39

'Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.'

This is simple and, more importantly, unconditional. Just note some of the things Jesus didn't add to this commandment:

- *as long as they look like you and have a passport the same colour as yours*

- *as long as they are able and prepared to work for you*
- *as long as they follow all the same rules as you do*
- *as long as they believe what you believe*
- *as long as they are charming and innocent*

The only reason my attitude seems inconsistent is because in my heart and mind, I am unconsciously applying conditions like these. If I do that, I am the one that is flouting the law.

Anarcu

Puzzle of the Month¹

Golden Balls



I am in possession of nine golden balls, but I can choose to keep only one, which I must select.

Eight of the balls are of base metal, but one is pure gold. The appearance of each of the nine balls is identical, but the pure gold ball weighs slightly more. Each of the other eight balls weighs exactly the same.

I have access to a set of scales, but I am permitted to use it only twice, and no more. I have no weights. How then should I go about selecting the golden ball?



¹ Answer on p18



Poem for August

This month's selection is selected by Tony Downing.

That is surely recommendation enough. But you'll probably agree that there is even more reason to enjoy reading it when the authorship is revealed.

True Friendship

True friends are like jewels set in a Crown,
Each stone is chosen with love and with care.
You know they will never let you down,
Whenever you need them they will be there.
They are the family you've chosen yourself,
For that kindness love and care.

Whenever you need them in sickness or health,
You know that they will always be there.
When things go wrong, when you are in despair,
Just call out them and you are sure that they will be there.

Like jewels in the Crown, each set deep in your heart,
And mind to keep - but when you need them they will be there.
To help you through because they care.
Friendship grows and blossoms like sunshine after rain.

A trouble shared is a trouble halved;
A life is soon fine again.
So treasure your friends treat them well
And you will reap your reward.

Irene Downing

On the Buses

It's back! The open-top bus (route 68) is running again, in handsome Westcliff red livery. You can pick it up at Leigh - the old Post Office - and various stops to Southend. To come back you pick it up at Adventure Island.



It operates every day until Saturday 2 September. You can't use a bus pass but concessions apply, and fares are very reasonable; for example £3 for a return, or £4 for an all-day, hop-on-hop-off ticket.

The first two services each morning start from right outside the church. The times are 9.13 and 9.43. After that they are hourly from the Post Office at 15 minutes past the hour until lunchtime, then 45 minutes past. On Saturdays and Sundays they are 15 minutes past, all day until 17:15. Bon voyage!

Jennífer

We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.
John 1:14

Garden Communion.

After a walk across the woods on Wednesday morning 22 July, Peter and I went through the back entrance of Jean and Frank's garden. As most of you know it is very beautiful, very green and quiet. Just birds singing. Then what a joy to actually see our friends 'in the flesh' after so long.

We were spaced apart in a circle and with Norman leading our worship – prayers and singing, again so much joy. But the Bread and Wine moment was so special, each of us in turn went and received the elements, whilst the rest of us prayed for them. Then a quiet prayer and amazingly a breeze drifted by each of us – the Holy Spirit was there.



Thank you, Lord for the sacrament, as one realises just how much during the past months one has thirsted for this part of our faith. Afterwards and particularly today (Thursday) I have felt lifted inside. The Lord never left us I know, but he was very much there in that garden.

What a privilege – thank you Lord, and Norman, Frank and Jean, thank you for making it possible.

Jenny Courtenay 😊

Further Outdoor Worship



Following the success of the event on 22 July, there will be further events as set out below, and all are welcome. I draw your attention to the following:

- We regret that we cannot arrange transport
- Events are of course subject to favourable weather (which we will request through the normal channels)
- Numbers are limited because of COVID 19 guidance, so you must reserve a place by calling Julie on 479804. Julie will also advise in the event of a doubtful weather forecast.

Open Air Worship

Day/Date	Hosts	Address	Leader	Max
Wed 29/07	Steve Watson	248 Eastwood Rd N	Norman*	6
Wed 05/08	Jean & Frank	66 Woodside	Norman*	15
Wed 12/08	Jennifer & Peter	84 Olive Ave	Kathy	10
Wed 19/08	Church	Sutherland Bvd	Norman*	12
Wed 26/08		N/A		
Sun 30/08	Church	Sutherland Bvd	Norman*	20

*Communion to be shared

Serving the Homeless

Lockdown continues to rule out social fundraising events, but the necessary work goes on at HARP, YMCA, and many foodbanks across the town



The only fundraising event for August is our Raffle. Tickets are £1, with 5 in a book for £5. This year we are offering several mini hampers as prizes. These will hopefully include, Pamper items, chocolates, mini bottles of drink, gardening, sweets, flowers, and other goodies. Tickets available from me. The Draw will be on 7 September.

Frank Edmonds

Humour Corner

Teacher

How many times can you subtract ten from one hundred?

Pupil

Once.

Teacher

I don't think so...

Pupil

Well, after the first time you're subtracting it from ninety.

If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

Psalm 139: vv 9,10



Jobs for the Garden

From our special gardening correspondent

I've been thinking a lot about the dry garden at Hyde Hall that I mentioned last month and what I can learn from it.

I've given up long ago trying to grow plants in my garden that don't want to grow there because the conditions aren't right. You can take some steps to help – for example, by improving the soil – but if it's really not the right place for that plant, then I don't grow it. Plants have to be strong to survive in my garden as I'm not going to mollycoddle them!

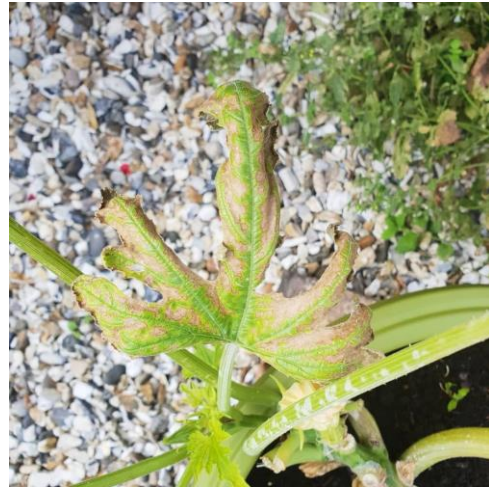
I'm also careful with watering. There are times when daily watering is needed. Plants in containers and those newly planted need soaking most days, but this should be done in early morning or late evening. And a good soak, right at the roots – not on the foliage - is best as this encourages deep, drought-resistant roots. It obviously depends on the weather, but I give the borders a good soak only every couple of days rather than daily. And it goes without saying that we should be collecting rainwater as much as we can in water butts for watering our gardens.

I've had a bumper crop of new potatoes these last few weeks– more than I can



really use – and so I am going to plan better what I grow next year. I’m making notes now so that I don’t get carried away when looking at the seed catalogues and forget my good intentions. I also taking photos of the borders now so I can see where there are gaps. Hopefully, I’ll remember where the photos are when I come to plant out next spring.

The routine jobs are keeping me busy – deadheading and feeding, potting up self-sown seedlings and turning my compost bins. I’ve got some mildew on the leaves of my courgettes and so I’m removing these and won’t be putting them in the compost bin. I’ve read that a daily spray of one-part milk mixed with nine-parts water on the infected leaves will help, so I’m going to give this a try. Evidently poor air circulation encourages the mildew, which reminds me - keeping the greenhouse well ventilated discourages this and other fungal diseases.



Enjoy your garden, even if it’s no more than a window box – it is so good for you.

SGC

Humour Corner

Man at Vet’s

My racing snail is slowing down a bit lately.

Vet

Hmmm. He has quite a heavy shell. Have you tried running him without it on?

Man

Yep. That makes him really sluggish

Report from 10th Leigh Brownies

The Brownies wish to send congratulations to one of the Ranger leaders - Victoria & husband Matt - on the safe arrival of a baby boy called Finnick on the 9 July 2020. Congratulations also go to the Jacqui on having a second grandson.



Although the Brownies have not been able to meet weekly, the girls have been busy doing a number of challenges and badges online. A number of the girls also took part in an Anglia Region Midsummer Virtual Sleepover. Teresa & I were very pleased to be able to deliver a number of badges, including Bronze & Silver awards to the girls on what would have been our last meeting before the summer holidays. A new 40-Day Challenge has been sent out to the girls to keep them busy over the holidays.

We have also had to say 'goodbye' to some of the Brownies. They have either moved up to Guides or are pursuing dancing or sport activities. We wish them all the best. We have also welcomed 6 new girls to join us in September.

At the present time we will not be back to face-to-face meetings, but we will be keeping in touch with all the girls. Let's hope that everyone has a good summer break, and all goes well when the schools return in September.

Stay safe and good wish to all at Highlands from all at 10th Leigh Brownies.

Puzzle of the Month

This has quite a simple yet elegant solution.

You need to divide the nine balls into three sets of three. Then select two of the three sets (it doesn't matter which ones) and put them on opposite sides of the scales. Then

- If the left hand side is heavier than the right, the real gold ball must be one of the three on the left hand side. Discard the three balls on the right, and the three you didn't weigh
- If the right hand side is heavier than the left, see above but change right and left round!
- If the scales show that the two sets are equal in weight, then the real gold ball is one of the three you didn't weight. Discard all the balls on the scales.

You're left with three balls. One of them must be the real gold ball. So repeat the exercise above, placing one ball on each side of the scales and ignoring the third. You now know exactly which ball is the real gold ball.

During lockdown we need to keep our bodies and minds in good shape – especially if they have few miles on the clock. Walking and cycling and exercise classes are ideal for our bodies; for our minds, keep on with puzzles like this, along with crosswords, sudokus and simliar games.

Humour Corner

Wife (watching a wildlife show involving scuba diving)
Why is it that they always fall backwards when they enter the water?

Husband
What a daft question! If they tried to fall forwards they'd still be in the boat wouldn't they?

From the Archives

As you will have noted from page 19 in the July edition of the Highlander, the anniversary of the opening and dedication of our current church building in 1956, was on 7th July. Herewith, slightly abridged, the first part of an historical note which appeared in the order of service for that day. The author was Mr. Rowland Hankin (a Highlands steward who owned a local printing business.) and it traces the development of our church on its current site.

In 1956 he wrote:

The beginnings of Methodism on the Highlands Estate go back well over thirty years.

Leigh-on-Sea in those days was extending westwards in no uncertain manner. The London Road instead of being a country lane leading to Hadleigh

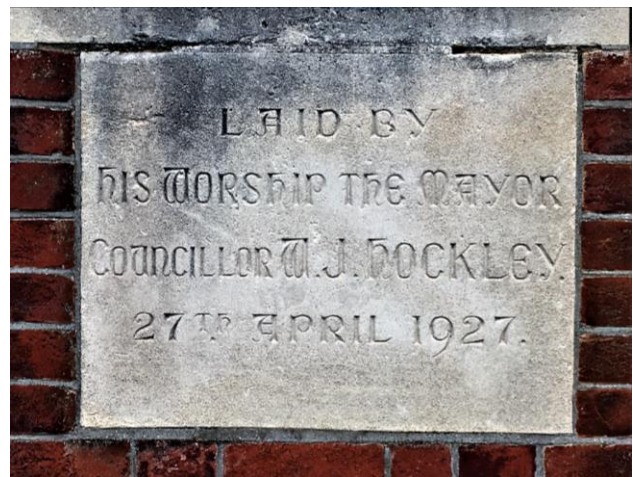
was becoming a main road and an important bus route; Marine Parade instead of finishing as a dead-end just beyond Harley Street was pushing out towards Hadleigh Castle. The area between these two roads was being built upon at an alarming rate, whilst the land lying to the north of the London Road presented local building developers with many fertile fields on which to build houses by the hundred.



Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.
Genesis 28:16

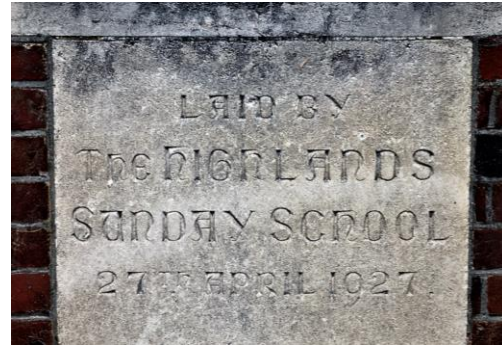
The minister at Leigh Wesley from 1923-26 was the Rev W Lawson and he was quick to appreciate and to energetically advance the idea of a Methodist church in the middle of this new area. A trust was formed composed mainly of stalwarts from Wesley and it acquired a commanding site at the corner of Sutherland Boulevard and Olive Avenue, though these both were no more than mud tracks. A turf cutting ceremony took place in July 1926, then plans were formulated for the founding of a Methodist Society and the erection of a building.

On Saturday evening 30 October 1926 the inaugural meeting of the Society took place in a hut in Olive Avenue known as St. David's Hall. Rev A Folley had been appointed to the newly formed Southend-on-Sea (Leigh) Circuit in the previous month, with the special responsibility for the new Highlands venture. On the following day, the first Sunday services were held. At about 2.45 pm thirteen Sunday school teachers and officers, recruited mainly from Leigh Wesley and led by Mr. Victor Clough, gathered around the door of St. David's Hall to greet scholars. They enrolled fifteen that afternoon and the Highlands Sunday school had begun. Rev J Maddock, recently appointed superintendent of the new circuit, took the first church service that evening. The new Society owed much to him in its early days.



All the young Society's energies in the beginning were directed towards the permanent home, it was to have in Sutherland Boulevard. The stone-laying of the school hall was held on 27 April 1927 and the opening ceremony was on the 17 September that year. Rev Hodson Smith, then President of The Wesleyan Conference, did the honours. Rev Scott Lidgett conducted the first Sunday services on the following day.

Progress in those early days was slow. The young Society suffered many growing pains and a terrific building debt of £922 (equivalent approximately £58,300 in 2020) was a heavy burden. Changes of minister were frequent, but from 1930 its own manse became available (at 29 Sutherland Boulevard).



to

Since then a succession of ministers, of whom any church would be proud and privileged, have led at Highlands. Rev Gerald Lansley, 1930-34, and Rev E Hardwick, 1934-37, both strove mightily to build the fellowship into a virile Society and, at the same time, to liquidate the ever-present debt. Once the building was paid for, the Society proceeded to pay off the debt on the church site. Congregations towards the end of Rev. Hardwick's ministry were such as to warrant talk about extensions, a new trust was formed, and plans were drawn up for a new church.

Andrew Saville [to be continued]

Jordan

Wilf Tyler² gives a personal snapshot in this and next month's issue

Christians wanting to visit the Holy Land and visit the many biblical sites are most likely to go to Israel and the Palestinian West Bank. Few of us think of the country of Jordan as being part of the Holy Land, yet this peaceful country features prominently in the Old Testament and was also the scene of several gospel stories. For example, Moses and the Israelites spent 40 years in

² Wilf will probably be best known to you as an occasional pianist at Highlands. But there is more to Wilf than meets the eye.



the wilderness, most of which is now Jordan. They journeyed up through the kingdoms of Edom and Moab. travelling up the King's Way which is still there.

Aaron died and was buried on Mount Hor (in Arabic, Jebel Haroun - the mountain of Aaron). The death of Moses is commemorated at Mount

Nebo. You can walk alongside the River Jabbok where Jacob wrestled on the bank with God, who renamed him Israel. Village after village, as you travel north from Aqaba (near Ezion-Geber, whence Solomon's ships sailed) is named in the book of Numbers. You can go to the areas allocated to the tribes of Reuben and Issacar and the half tribe of Manasseh.

In the museum in Amman is a replica of the Moabite stele (the original is in the Louvre in Paris). The stone records the events of chapter 3 in the 2nd book of Kings and was made under the orders of Mesha, King of Moab. Dating to about 840 BCE, this must surely be the oldest surviving record of a contemporary biblical event.



Thousands of tourists go to Bethany beyond Jordan to see where Jesus was baptised. Fewer continue to Gadara to see where Jesus cured the demented man by sending his demons into a herd of pigs (the Gadarene swine) that rushed headlong into the sea and were drowned. The hill they descended is very steep indeed!

Few tourists see the hilltop ruins on the of Herod's Palace where John the Baptist was imprisoned and beheaded; but I found it interesting, nevertheless.

There is plenty to see and do in Jordan. It is a lovely country; the people are friendly and it is perfectly safe. They don't have oil so

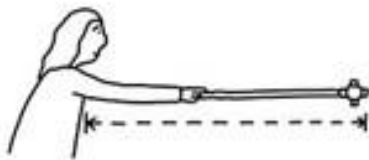
the big countries leave them alone, and of course they have the famous tombs and temples of ancient Petra, and the Roman city of Jerash (the biblical Gerassa). I go to Jordan twice a year and would recommend it to anyone for a holiday.

Wilf Tyler [to be continued]

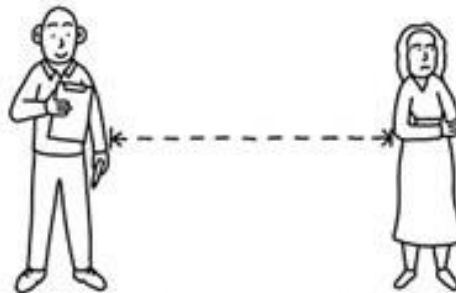
Humour Corner

TWO METRES

WAYS TO MEASURE IT



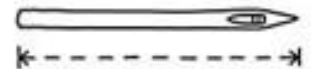
THE LENGTH OF A
WARDEN'S STAVE



A SENSIBLE DISTANCE
FROM SOMEONE
RECRUITING FOR A ROTA



A CROZIER



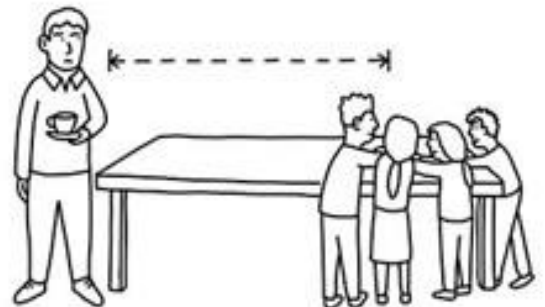
AN ORGAN PIPE
OF APPROXIMATELY
THAT LENGTH



THE DIAMETER OF
THE ARC OF A
SWINGING THURIBLE



1.3 STOLES



AS CLOSE AS YOU CAN
GET TO THE BISCUITS
WHEN THE CHILDREN'S
GROUP IS RELEASED

(Cartoon by Dave Walker <https://cartoonchurch.com/>)

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

or  Highlands (Leigh) Methodist Church

also www.methodist.org.uk is an excellent source of information and inspiration.

Items for the September 2020 issue should be emailed to andrewghyde@aol.com before Sunday 23 August. No email? Don't despair; just telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13