



The **HIGHLANDER**

September 2020

The monthly newsletter of Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh on Sea

11:00 Sun 6 th	Café Church Using ZOOM <i>All are welcome</i>	Kathy McCullough
11:00 Sun 13 th	Morning Worship Using ZOOM <i>All are welcome</i>	Steve Mayo (recorded)
11:00 Sun 20 th	Morning Worship inc Communion <i>Booking essential</i>	Steve Mayo
11:00 Sun 27 th	To be advised	

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

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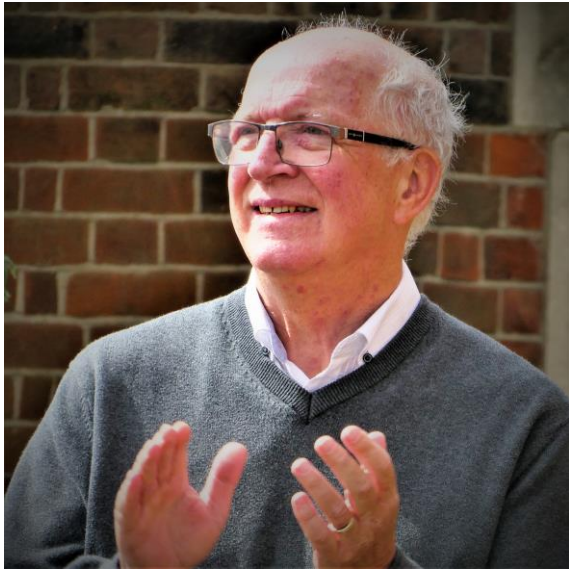
We're Coming Back



Finally this month I can return to publicising an almost normal service. It takes place at 11:00 on Sunday 20 September. The church will look slightly different (see above) and under the current rules pertaining to places of worship we can only have 30 people in attendance.

So if you haven't already expressed interest (by email in August) and would like to join us, please get in touch with Julie or me as soon as you possibly can.

If you expressed interest and now have other plans, we'd also like to hear from you for obvious reasons.



Thank you, Norman for your time here with us at Highlands, showing us the way spiritually and prayerfully, especially through the challenges of lockdown. As always you have been supported by Jan. We all thank the Lord that you were led here and pray for your next 'assignment'!

Passionate, committed, and a channel of God's love for humankind. May you be blessed Norman (and Jan), in your work with the Experience Project.

Norman you have made our community days so very special. We have shared so many wonderful times with you that we will treasure. Please stay in touch, tea and biscuits will always be waiting for you.

Norman was born and lived the first 19 years of his life in West Belfast, N. Ireland. He is married to Jan, they have 5 grown up children, with 7 grandchildren. Norman and Jan met at Cliff College, Derbyshire, and since then have lived, studied and worked in Berwick on Tweed, Somerset, Scotland, back to N. Ireland, then to Essex, over to Bristol, to Buckingham as a Methodist Minister, and then in 2007 to Southend. He loves being with the family, enjoys exercise and plays the cornet after a fashion, but his real passion is Jesus and seeing lives transformed by his amazing love and grace! He believes that the Christian life should be profoundly spiritual, and also deeply practical.



We pray for our friends who are ill, housebound, or bereaved and for those in residential care: particularly Maureen Kelly at home and *Doll Edwards in The Cedars*. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families.

We pray still for Trevor Metcalfe and thank everyone concerned in his care.

We remember with affection our sweet and gracious friend Jean Burgess, who died on 15 August. Ros Bryant writes:

Jean, with her mother Mrs Hooper, moved to Leigh around 1960, and joined Highlands. She was working in London at that time. At Highlands she was in the choir for many years. She was also one of the flower arrangers and was involved when catering help was needed. Several people at church will remember her as the maker of their wedding cakes.

Sid Burgess then sadly lost his wife. After a few years Jean married Sid and moved to their house in Quorn Gardens. In due course she would care for Sid through his final illness, having enjoyed a number of happy years with him.

For some time, the house group led by David Gare met at her house. David was a good support for her, helping with 'business' things. In recent years she also joined the Knit & Natter group, was often at coffee mornings on a Saturday and belonged to MOTHS.

As caring for her home became more of a burden, her stepdaughters

Eileen and Sheila decided that for her sake it was better for her to move into a home, and she was well cared for in St Martin's. A rota of people brought her to church every Sunday, but she missed some of the other activities, and being able to go into Southend to shop. Following an illness in June, she spent some weeks in hospital, but returned to the home for her birthday in July. Finally, she died having returned to hospital. She will be sadly missed by her Highlands friends. Her twin sister and their older sister in Canada, together with her stepdaughters survive her.

Snippets

Action for Children

An amount of £231.65 has been sent in respect of Home Collection Boxes from those I was able to get in, plus donations. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

From September I am handing over the reins to Mrs Pamela Smith whom I'm sure you will support in this very worthy cause, in the same way I have been supported over the years. My thanks to you all.

Sylvia Cornwell

Highlands Hobbies

HH is still live and kicking. We'll meet again, we do know where (the garden of Jean and Frank, 66 Woodside weather permitting), but not exactly when. It will be Thursday 3 September, and we'll let you know the time as soon as we can. So if you're not already a member – give us a call.

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

Circuit Prayer Breakfast

This event used to take place at The Elms on the first Saturday of the month but has not done so for some months. It is now proposed to restart on 5 September from 08:30 to 09:30 on 'ZOOM'. More information from Kathy Burrell on 01268 794741, but here is the necessary joining information:

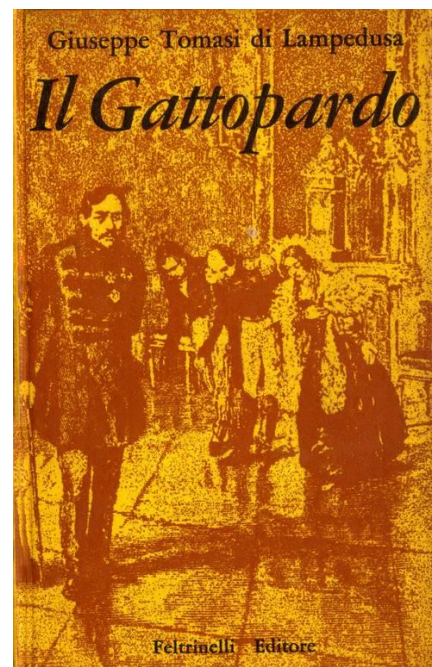
Meeting ID: 810 9652 4732 Passcode: 040486

From the Editor

*'Se vogliamo che tutto rimanga come è,
bisogna che tutto cambi'*

Giuseppe di Lampedusa,
Il Gattopardo (The Leopard).

The Leopard is widely regarded as the best novel ever written in Italian. It is definitely the best-selling novel. It's all about the experience of an aristocratic Sicilian family going through the revolution that brought about the modern Italian state in 1861. Italian scholars out there will have already translated the quotation as:



'If we want things to stay as they are, things will have to change.'

This is quite a well-known quotation, but it's really difficult to understand. After all, it seems to contradict itself. However, the meaning is that the best way to defend the core of our beliefs and principles – justice, fairness, freedom, peace - is by embracing necessary changes and allowing them to happen around us. If we do not do so, we put those beliefs and principles at risk.

Examples of change now seem to take place with a speed and regularity that takes our breath away and threatens to overwhelm us. Who would have believed, at the start of the year, that we would be wearing masks to visit shops or travel on empty trains? That folk would be unable to visit France or Spain? That thousands of those lucky enough to keep their jobs would be working from home, while Central London office blocks stood virtually empty?

These examples of change are prompted by things happening beyond our control. You might say they are *reactive*. Often, we undergo change that is *proactive* – we decide for ourselves to make changes with an intention to improve the condition of things. Brexit was an example of proactive change. Unfortunately, it divided the country and unseated two prime ministers, and who



*Time may change me,
but I can't trace time*

knows if it will be an improvement? Nevertheless, the fundamental values that we rightly treasure – including justice, fairness, tolerance and freedom – are unaffected. While we may stand back and allow the superficial changes, we must and will resist any change to our core values. In that way, *'things [will] stay as they are'*.

Change sometimes provides fortuitous improvement. Thanks to lockdown, many thousands of people have been able to carry on working without the stress and expense of commuting (though our

thoughts are very much with others who have lost jobs). In many places, nature has flourished during lockdown, and carbon emissions have been reduced. Holding services using 'Zoom' is a facility we can hold in reserve for bad weather in the future. Are these things happy accidents or is God showing us the way?

Closer to home, Norman's time as our Minister is ending, and that of Pastor Steve Mayo is beginning. Nobody wishes the departure of a well-loved minister even if (as in this case) the incoming minister will be welcome and highly suitable. But there is little choice in the matter. In Methodism, as in other churches, every ministry must end eventually. Even in the C of E, Rev Jim Cocke has had to retire this year as vicar of All Saints', Headington, after a record-breaking 63 years.

But having a new minister will make no difference to the important aspects of our faith. We carry on regardless in our mission to

'love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind' (Mt 22:37) ...

and of course, to

'love thy neighbour as thyself' (Mt 22:39) ...

because

'On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets' (Mt 22:40).

Anarcan

Puzzle of the Month¹

The Moth-Eaten Tee-Shirt

Here is a very simple puzzle. All you have to do is say how many holes there are in this plain white tee-shirt.

You can ignore holes that are supposed to be there – the ones you put your arms and head through!



The Return to Highlands

Morning Service on Sunday 30 August was distinguished in several ways. It was the last service by Norman as our minister. Heather Simmonds, and later the *Daisy Bowlers* played and sang for us. It was the first service at our church building after lockdown. And Heather Stanford was welcomed as a member.

Notice there that I said 'at' rather than 'in' our building. The service took place on the lawn outside. Rather than try to describe the event, I shall share some images:

¹ Answer on p13



Poem for September



This a poem that starts with a useful aide-memoire for anyone trying to write a comprehensive report on almost any subject. If you know the answers to all six questions, you have a solid factual basis on which to build your analysis. The next three verses are more whimsical in tone, and the final verse has always been a mystery to me. I'll let you draw your own conclusions.

Six Honest Serving Men

By Rudyard Kipling

I keep six honest serving men,
They taught me all I knew.
Their names are What and Why and When
And How and Where and Who.

I send them over land and sea,
I send them east and west;
But after they have worked for me,
I give them all a rest.

I let them rest from nine till five,
For I am busy then,
As well as breakfast, lunch, and tea,
For they are hungry men.

But different folk have different views;
I know a person small
She keeps ten million serving-men,
Who get no rest at all!

She sends em abroad on her own affairs,
From the second she opens her eyes
One million Hows, Two million Wheres,
And seven million Whys!

Puzzle of the Month

The t-shirt has 4 holes. These are serious moths. If you thought that it only had 2, then you ignored the holes in the back, which appear to be the same shape as (or larger than) the ones in the front of the garment.

(3 is a possible answer, if there is one really big hole in the back, but 2 is not. And of course there may be lots of small holes in the back.)



The crowd reacts to some tough preaching by Norman

Dine with the Homeless

I love meringues (who doesn't? Ed) – the soft billowy ones with melt in the mouth centres. This recipe never fails me. And yes, I have used it with homeless folk. They love meringues too.

I've had a surprise crop of autumn raspberries, and meringues with raspberries for dessert - just perfect.

- 4 large egg whites (use the yolks for ice cream)
- 115g caster sugar
- 115g icing sugar - sifted

Heat oven to 100°C fan. Line 2 trays with baking parchment. (Make sure your glass bowl and whisk are *really* clean – any grease will stop the whites becoming stiff peaks.)

Whisk the egg whites on medium speed until your mixture stands up in stiff peaks. Turn up the speed and add caster sugar, one dessertspoon at a time. Once all the caster sugar is added, the mixture should be thick and glossy.

Add one third of the icing sugar and fold in with a metal spoon or spatula. Repeat this twice more until all the icing sugar is folded in and the mixture looks like a snow drift.

Spoon rounds onto the baking parchment – you should get about 16. Bake for about 90 minutes until they sound crisp when tapped underneath and are a pale coffee colour.

These meringues are not the pure white, dry ones. These are crisp outside but with soft centres. They keep for about 2 weeks.

Post script: We had crisp, dry white meringues with friends recently and my friend said that her mum had made them. Nothing unusual about that, but her mum had died 3 years earlier! They had kept perfectly in an airtight tin.

From the Archives

Highlands at War

In the August edition of the Highlander you will have read that the opening and dedication of our present church building took place on Saturday 7 July 1956. In the order of service for that day was printed an historical note contributed by Mr Rowland Hankin a church steward. The narrative in the August 2020 Highlander headed 'From the Archives' ended by stating that the Rev Hardwick (1935-37) not only worked with the congregation to pay off the debt for the construction of the church (now our church hall), which was opened in 1927, but because of the ever growing numbers in the weekly congregations, plans were drawn up for a new and more spacious church.

Mr Hankin's script continued:

With the arrival of Rev Ralph Bates in 1937, progress was rapid, and he set about consolidating the vision of his predecessors. The plans for the new church were approved by the authorities concerned and a scheme for raising the necessary funds was launched. The still comparatively young Society responded so well that in twelve months it raised over £700 (equivalent to £47,992 today). Promises of Connexional and other grants were obtained



and had the scheme gone on uninterrupted, a church which would have enhanced the architectural beauty of, and added to, the amenities of the Highlands Estate, would have opened in 1940.

The outbreak of war in September 1939 was a small setback compared with the one that followed in the spring and early summer of 1940, when the whole neighbourhood was evacuated almost overnight. Rev Bates had to take another appointment and the small remnant of the Society which remained behind, came under the pastoral care of the Rev. Walter Charlesworth until 1943.



As the period of hostilities lengthened, evacuees gradually returned; the Sunday school was recommenced in 1942, and in 1943, Rev Maddock assumed pastoral charge of the church. Tribute must here be paid to the yeoman service rendered to Highlands by both Rev Charlesworth and Rev Maddock during its darkest days.

In the early months of 1945, the state of the church was so healthy and the outlook so promising that efforts were made to appoint a full time minister once more, and so it came about that on VJ Day, Rev Richard Boggis arrived at Epworth (the manse in Sutherland Boulevard). From then on, Highlands has progressed in a truly wonderful manner. Under the inspired leadership of Rev Boggis, the Sunday school and church became stronger than ever



before. The vision of the new church was ever before the Society and a new church building fund was launched, although the prospect of actually building in those days was very dim. Some further accommodation however became a necessity and in July 1947, the Youth Hut was opened. Not the least of Rev Boggis's good works was the commencing of the monthly church newsletter, which has now been running for nearly ten years.

Andrew Saville [to be concluded next month]

The A-Team



Ignoring the absence of coffee and cake, the intrepid Highlands Coronavirus-Smashers team prepares for battle.

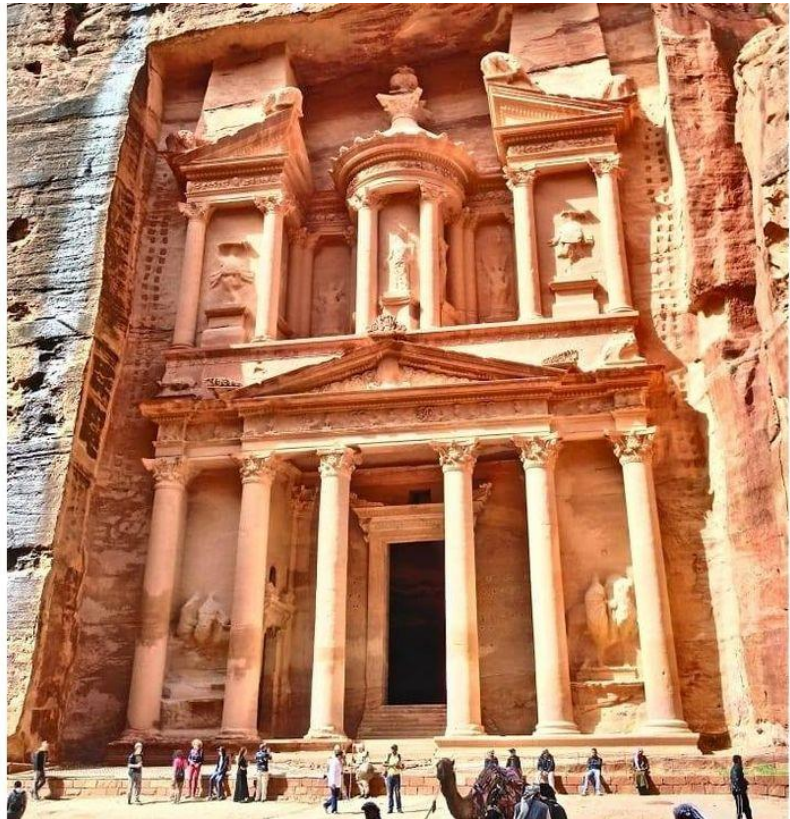
He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I will come forth as gold.

Job 23:10

Jordan

Wilf Tyler² concludes his personal view

Because I visit so regularly I was invited in 2018 to go to Jordan to appear on Jordanian television, to talk about why I keep going there. I was taken down into Petra where we kept stopping so that I could point out various interesting things. In all they were filming me for 3½ hours, but the actual broadcast was edited down to 3½ minutes! I still enjoy playing it over and watching my performance. Following



The world-famous gate of the city of Petra

the television broadcast, an article appeared in the English language newspaper - the Jordan Times - fame at last!



Hotels in Jordan vary from the very good, but expensive, 5-star, to the cheap-but-good

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.

backpacker one-night bed and breakfast Inns. So, when lockdown travel restrictions end, Jordan is ideal for a lazy seaside holiday or something more strenuous, seeing the sites. A visit could include both.

Meanwhile at Highlands church you know me as Wilf. My full name is John Wilfred Tyler. Now, my father was also John, but rather than 'John Tyler Junior', I prefer to be called Wilfred. In Jordan however, your first name is your own name, your second name is invariably your father's and your third name is that of your grandfather. Finally, your fourth name in Jordan will be that your family or your tribal name.

In Jordan it is assumed from my passport that my name is John, and that my father's name was Wilfred. So I have to learn to be John out there. My very dear friend in Jordan is a member of the Nawafleh tribe, and wherever I go in Jordan I am regarded as a member of his family. So it is that I even sign hotel registers as John Nawafleh. Typically, the hotel will check my passport, but they happily accept the signature!

Wilf Tyler

Humour Corner

Knock knock.

Who's there?

A little old lady.

A little old lady who?

I had no idea you could yodel.

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 27 September. No email? Don't despair; just telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.

Carry each other's burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2