

The HIGHLANDER

November 2020

The monthly newsletter of Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh on Sea

11:00 Sun 1 st	Café Church	Kathy McCullough	
	Using ZOOM		
	All are welcome		
10:45 Sun 8 th	Morning Worship	Pastor Steve Mayo	
	Remembrance Sunday		
	inc Communion		
	Booking essential (Julie)		
11:00 Sun 15 th	Morning Worship	Worship Leaders	
	Using ZOOM		
	All are welcome		
11:00 Sun 22 nd	Morning Worship	Rev Peter	
	Using ZOOM	Moorhouse	
	All are welcome		
11:00 Sun 29 th	Morning Worship	Worship Leaders	
	Using ZOOM		
	All are welcome		

NB All the above services are subject to possible amendment if pertinent regulations and circumstances change

Find more information at: www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk
Highlands (Leigh) Methodist Church



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<u>H</u>ighlands <u>M</u>ethodist <u>C</u>hurch <u>H</u>ospitality in the <u>M</u>idst of our <u>C</u>ommunity

All telephone numbers are '01702' unless stated

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From Your Minister



At this time of year our minds turn to Remembrance Day. This year, things are probably going to be very different in some, or all of our country, as gatherings and church services may be restricted.

Although, Remembrance Day is quite rightly about remembering those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom and liberty, and I'm sure we will take time to remember them, it's also a time to remember what God has done for each one of us and will do in the days to come.

Life is uncertain at the moment as we experience a second wave of the covid-19 virus. God reminds us again and again, that He is with us, and does remember us.

Such scripture texts as these...

'Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.' [Joshua 1:9b NIV-UK] '...the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.'

[Deuteronomy 31:6b NIV-UK]

'The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.' [Psalm 46:7 NIV-UK]

...can remind us of God's love and care for us.

At this year's Remembrance, do remember the fallen, but also remember that God is with us and will never leave us.

Every blessing,

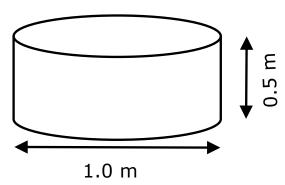
Pastor Steve November 2020 pastorstevemayo@gmail.com 01702 483827

Puzzle of the Month¹

An easy maths puzzle this week. For the purposes of this question,

take the value of π (pi) as 3, and the weight of a cubic metre of dry soil as 1,200 kg

In my garden I have dug a perfectly round hole that is half a metre deep and one metre in diameter.



What is the weight of the soil in the hole?

4

¹ Solution on page 19

From the Editor

Surprisingly, I own a pair of socks made out of bamboo. That's right, my feet are clad in a product made from a woody evergreen grass that is one of the roughly 1,400 members of the *bambuseae* tribe. Happily, my socks are warm and comfortable, hard-wearing and tastefully striped in bright colours; in short, they are everything I require from socks



Bamboo grows almost anywhere, though it doesn't care for locations

that are too alkaline, too dry or too wet. Some large timber species reach 30 metres (nearly 100 ft) in height. Some grow at a rate of 910 mm (36 in) a day, though 30-100 mm is more typical. Bamboo can be invasive and a bit of a thug.

But does the world need that many socks? And does bamboo have other uses? It certainly does!



It provides food (for humans as well as pandas), medicines including aphrodisiacs (!), skin care materials, waxes, beer, and materials for floors, walls, gutters, scaffolding, concrete reinforcement, baskets, coffins,

yurts, furniture, beehives, aeroplanes, bicycles, paper, textiles, jewellery, toys, electric filaments, needles, and of course... chopsticks!

The humble bamboo is clearly an amazing organism, and a gift of a truly bountiful God. If mankind had just stood and admired it, it would be useful only to the pandas. But instead, firstly oriental people and then others harvested it and used their God-given ingenuity to use it and to sustain both life and culture.

However, we have to note that the full potential of bamboo has only been realised by sharing it. In the same way, plants such as rice, potatoes and willow have only achieved their potential by



being spread and shared. And of course, the story of Jesus Christ will only assume the importance it deserves as you and I spread and share it as widely as possible.

Finally though, let's return to more practical matters. Scripture urges each of us to share:

Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

Ephesians 4:28

One of the best ways I know of sharing food is through the food banks, for whom Christmas, in about seven weeks' time, is a time of stress. If you would like to help out, but are unsure of how to do it, please turn to page 17 now for more information.



*I gleaned the information on bamboo from *Fifty Plants that Changed the Course of History* by Bill Laws ISBN 978-0-85762-486-4. Fascinating read, and a decent present for anyone. interested in history and horticulture.



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

We remember...

Trevor Metcalfe who died after a brave battle of some months of illness. Our thoughts are with Gill and their daughters Louise and Emma and families and the many friends of Trevor, who lost his fight for life on 6 October. Trevor left a legacy of fun and laughter especially for his pantomime scripts and so much more. We will miss him enormously. A service of celebration took place on 23 October. About 30 people took part in the church, with a further 80 or so online, including many of his family in Manchester.

Jean Pickering a local preacher since 1981, and **Andy Thomas** of similar distinction since 1996, have recently died. Jean was not a regular leader at Highlands in recent years, but many will remember Andy's fruity Midlands tones from the Highlands pulpit.

Peggy Wooding passed away around August in her 98th year. She and her late husband, Peter, maintained contact with the church over many years and had the *Highlander* delivered to their house in Buxton Square. We send our love and sympathy to her family.

We congratulate...

Andrew and **Esther Williams** (née Barter) on the birth of Darcy Mary Elizabeth on 8 October. Our best wishes for a happy family life in Brisbane Australia.

We thank...

Les Davis, who has advised that, if a Carol Service takes place this year, he would prefer just taking part rather than leading it. He feels that he needs to hang up his baton.

Les has acted as musical director of our carol services for more years than most of us can remember. In recent years he has artfully augmented the choir with several members from *Gaudeamus*.

So once again, Les, a huge thank you from all at Highlands, and we sincerely hope to be able to put on a carol service for all to enjoy, as soon as we can.

Jackie Williams and **Sylvia Cornwell** who have been responsible for counting and checking cash collections then passing them on to the treasurer for many, many tears. As things stand at the moment there are few cash collections, but in the past they have, week in and week out, carried out this duty faithfully and diligently. A big thank you to both.

Snippets



Christian Aid.

As Christian Aid organiser for Highlands I have received a request for our church to help communities around the world come together to overcome the crisis of poverty especially at this difficult time.

We made a great effort in the Spring but if anyone finds it in their heart to donate again, that would be so gratefully received and every penny would be well used. As we meet infrequently in church at this time the details are as follows:

www.caid.org.uk/neighbours or ≈020 7523 2269 quoting AO35713.

Iean Edmonds.

Highlands Hobbies at Home

As it has been so difficult for our Hobbies members to get together, we have two plans.

Marjorie has kindly prepared folders of plastic canvas shapes plus various balls of wool for Christmas tree decorations; also some card making equipment that we can deliver to you. We'd especially welcome any new members. If you would like a pack delivered to your home, call 01702 525250.

Also, so that we have a base for organising, Glenis and Jean plan to be at Highlands in Room 1 from 10:30 am until 12:00 noon on 5 and 19 November, also on 3 and 10 December. Because the current rules are liable to change, and because we are currently limited to 6 including us, it is absolutely essential to check in with Jean, again \$\alpha\$ 01702 525250, to avoid possible disappointment (or worse).

We look forward to hearing from you.

Jean Edmonds.

Knit & Natter

For the moment there have been no changes in regulations around COVID 19 that allow meetings. As soon as there is further news you will find it here.

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



ABRSM Exams

The next series of ABRSM music exams is scheduled to start on Monday 9 November and to finish on Saturday 5 December.

As usual, we need to provide stewards (male or female) for the event. The session times are 08:30 am to 13:00 pm and 13:00 pm to 17:30 pm, but there are no exams on Wednesday mornings to allow the 'Stay Active' classes to take place.

If you would like to volunteer for one or more of the sessions, please contact me² or Ros³ giving dates and times of your availability. It's not difficult or complicated, and we'll have another volunteer 'show you the ropes' for as long as you need. Masks and distancing will apply.

No pressure here, but the arrangement with the ABRSM is a significant source of revenue for Highlands at a time when other sources are stuttering. We really need every penny at the moment.

Apart from that, it's a very fine and much valued service to the local community and a chance to welcome local people who might not otherwise set foot in Highlands.

Les Davis

Humour Corner

You can't beat a really good daft headline:



² 01702 558381 or email b.les.davis@btinternet.com

³ 01702 478631

From Our Older People's Worker

Autumn is upon us; the leaves are changing colour and the nights are drawing in. For everything there is a season and the season we give thanks for today is Harvest. The Lord God's first activity on earth was to plant a garden.

Please find our October Memory Worship Service to view on YouTube on your television/laptop or tablet.

This link is live now! https://youtu.be/kjyFrFsYVbk



By the way, if you don't have a computer or similar gadget, but you do use a DVD player, you can get Sunday Worship and some other events in that format. More details from Julie.

We will be celebrating Remembrance next month and your favourite Remembrance hymn recommendations are also appreciated.

Please remember - God's light shines bright through our upturned world, and know that although we may not be together in person we are together in Christ.

Julie Peek Older People's Worker and Memory Worship Facilitator



Jobs for the garden From our Special Gardening Correspondent

There are still jobs to be done around the garden but I'm only tempted out now on those bright November days. I'm past venturing out in the cold and wet.

There are leaves to be collected and composted. My lovely acer turned a brilliant orange hue – but a few days later, all those leaves had dropped. Such a wonderful show for such a short space of time. (Apologies to those viewing this in in



black and white - you can find the colour version on line)

It's time to think about protecting plants and pots for the winter. Make sure all pots have drainage holes and raise off the ground with little feet or bricks to prevent waterlogging. (I've found out these last few days that some pots actually didn't have drainage holes, though I thought they did.)

Some pots can be moved into the greenhouse or conservatory but if you don't have this option, you should look for sheltered spaces in the garden or wrap the plants and pots. With some plants, it's the cold that kills them, others can't tolerate being waterlogged either around their roots or at the crown. It's worth checking on the RHS website how to look after special plants over the winter.

And as always with gardening, you can get ready for the next season – get those bulbs planted and winter bedding in to cheer us in the dark days ahead.

SGC

SERVING THE HOMELESS

Christmas Greetings from Serving the Homeless

Thirty-one years ago, on 3 December 1989, a group, previously strangers, met together in Leigh. Their purpose was to discuss a Christian response to the pressing problem of homelessness in the

Southend area. There were representatives from Anglican, Catholic and Methodist churches in Leigh, and they proposed the creation of a new local ecumenical charity to help alleviate the desperate plight of homeless people in the area, most particularly the young single homeless for whom there was no statutory right to housing.



The group called itself 'Serving the Homeless'.

Over the years, with your help, STH has raised hundreds of thousands of pounds to support local projects.

- ➤ It supported the development of the Day and Night Shelter that was eventually to become HARP.
- ➤ It purchased accommodation used by Acorn and more recently by HARP to house clients.
- ➤ It spends £250 per month on food used to provide meals for the homeless at the Bradbury Centre.
- ➤ It financed the start-up costs of 3 of the Churches winter shelters; it has supported numerous individuals with temporary accommodation, travel expenses and equipment.
- ➤ It has supported the development of accommodation for young people by Southend YMCA and delivers Christmas parcels to all of the young people at the Y over Christmas.

Even in this most difficult of years we have managed to finance Westcliff SVP society in providing meals for the 100 rough sleepers put into temporary accommodation by Southend Council, and continued to provide £250 per month to HARP for food supplies.

We invite you to join us (from your home) on Saturday 12 December for a virtual fundraising meal for STH. Also, on Friday 18 December at 6:30 pm join us for an online Service of Carols and Readings for Christmas.

If you would like to donate you can do so online to: Serving the Homeless, Lloyds Bank Sort Code 30 00 09 Account No 00226011,

or STH c/o The Office, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Leigh Road, Leigh on Sea SS9 1NG.

Details of the service will be on the website of Highlands Methodist Church as well as Our Lady of Lourdes website. Meanwhile we wish you all the blessings of Christmas

Frank Edmonds

Food Bank Collections



A quick word of thanks to everyone who contributed food parcels as part of our Harvest Festival celebration.

You'll doubtless want to know what happened to the donations. The picture here shows Lesley delivering some of them to the St Vincent de Paul (SVP) Foodbank in Short Street, Southend (near the Royal Mail sorting office).

Move over Marcus Rashford – grub coming through!

There are details of a great way for you to make more donations on the next page.

Humour Corner

Another great headline:

End this chicken obsession, urges Fox

Sam Coates Deputy Political Editor Henry Zeffman

Liam Fox brushed off suggestions that a UK-US trade deal could be derailed by a dispute over chlorinated chicken as a new report said



The Short St Foodbank Advent Calendar

Make a difference this Christmas by taking part in this exercise, which will end with you donating an excellent Christmas hamper to someone who really needs it.

This is how it works, in three simple stages:

- 1. Put aside a box or a bag to hold your donations
- 2. On each day of November, place the suggested item in the bag
- 3. On or about the last day of November, deliver the bag to Short St Food Bank. Or your church or group may organise someone to do this, from a local delivery point.

NOVEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		_	_	-	Mini Christmas	
Tinned Fruit	Toothpaste	Tin of peas	Jar of jam	Pot Noodle	Pud	Box of cereal
_	_		11	12	13	14
8	9	10		5 1 6		
			Carton of	Pack of	Tin of mild	Instant hot
Tin of carrots	Toilet Rolls	Biscuits	custard	m/wave rice	curry	chocolate
				19	20	
15	16	17	18	_		21
				Bar of	Small selection	
Toothbrush	Teabags	Shower gel	Longlife juice	chocolate	box	Deodorant
			25	26		
22	23	24	Christmas item		27	28
			(crackers/	Tin of		
Shampoo	Longlife milk	Tin of ham	napkins)	sweetcorn	Jar of coffee	Bag of sugar
29	30					
A little	Bag of					
surprise	potatoes					

If you would like to take part, you can use this, or download the calendar from the Highlands FB page, or from the website, or ask for a email copy or a printed copy by contacting andrewghyde@aol.com or by telephoning 473111.

Poem for November



This is a poem by Derek Mahon, an Irish poet who died on 1 October this year in Cork. He wrote it while recovering from one of several encounters with alcoholism, so he was at a low ebb, both physically and spiritually. Nevertheless, the poem is suffused with the optimism that its title promises.

So it seemed to me that it was ideal for the time we are now living in – due to be consigned to history (and the sooner the better).

Everything is Going to be All Right

Derek Mahon (1941-2020)

How should I not be glad to contemplate the clouds clearing beyond the dormer window and a high tide reflected on the ceiling? There will be dying, there will be dying, but there is no need to go into that. The poems flow from the hand unbidden and the hidden source is the watchful heart. The sun rises in spite of everything and the far cities are beautiful and bright. I lie here in a riot of sunlight watching the day break and the clouds flying. Everything is going to be all right.

Someone I Admire

Amy Carmichael

I first became interested in Amy Carmichael (pictures here) through telling her illustrated story to children.

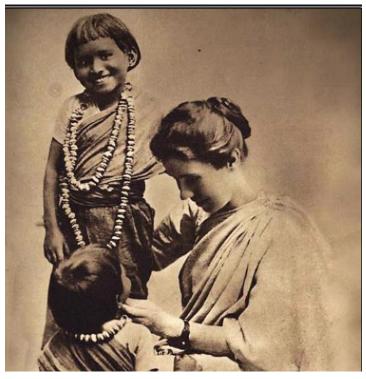
She was born in Northern Ireland in 1867. She became a missionary to India and defied the missionary conventions of her day. She dressed up as an Indian lady and visited Hindu Temples. She was in search of children that were sold into the service of the gods, as prostitutes.



Against all advice, she began to rescue them and care for them. She had so many children to care for, that little by little, she built a whole community with homes, a school, a hospital, a church, called Dohnavur.

The normal missionary practice was to return home every few years, to give news, to see family and to raise funds. She refused to return as she feared for the safety of the children. She spent 55 years in India, without returning to Northern Ireland.

Thousands of children have been rescued, over the years by Dohnavur Fellowship. India outlawed temple prostitution in 1948, Amy had a part in this.



In 1931 Amy sustained a severe injury and she was bedridden for the last 20 years of her life. She wrote 16 books during this time (40 in all). She died in India in 1951 aged 83 years. She wanted no grave stone, the children put a bird bath there with the single word "Amma" mother, on it. I had the privilege of knowing a lady who worked with her,

I sometimes think of her

phrase "A chance to die". She used it, to herself, when she was criticised or treated badly. In those times she had a chance to die to self and to live for Christ. I try to remember this when times are tough.

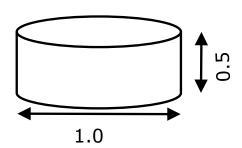
Kathy McCullough

Puzzle of the Month

The weight of the soil in the hole is <u>nothing</u>. Nada. Rien. Nichts. Zilch.

The hole is of course full of air.

If you got that right, award yourself 10 points.



Sorry, no points for working out that the weight of soil I took out of the hole was about 1,800 kg.

What Highlands Means to Me

This comes from Katy Kollasch (née Saville) now married and living near Denver in Colorado USA, in response to a request to write about something from the past that made Highlands special. She writes:

So many things from the past made Highlands special to me. It shaped my upbringing and who I am as a person. Let me explain...

- Seeing my name on the baptism record that hung on the wall in the lounge (beginners Sunday School room) made me realize I was an important part of the church.
- Attending Sunday School: Beginners, Primary, Juniors, Seniors, Fellowship. Every Sunday throughout my life, before university in Cardiff, was spent at church with friends, who were truly family.
- ⊕ On Saturdays I even danced in the morning in the primary room with Ms. Blellock. Saturday coffee mornings evoke the sound of money on the church china, the familiar faces through the hatch washing up and passing tea through. The plates of Bourbon and Nice biscuits and custard creams. Mmmmm...
- Pantomime rehearsals, straight after a roast dinner on Sunday afternoon and then home for a quick tea before Sunday Nighters. Brownies and Guides on a Wednesday night in the Hall.
- Christmas bazaars with beautiful crafts, home-made treats, and Mum's chocolate moulds. Jumble sales. Badminton. Choir practice. Band practice. Fundraising. A new organ. The hanging of the chandeliers made by Martin Ling.
- ↑ And Christmas. The Candlelit Services. Midnight Mass. The
 Christingle Service. Satsumas boxes and boxes of them from

Deacons the greengrocer! The real-life nativity. The tree above the entrance. Christmas morning, bringing our favourite presents to share. Singing the last verse of 'O Come All ye Faithful' for the only time each year! Laughter, carols, prayers and so much joy.

- → I remember the Snow Line and waiting in the Jubilee Room for phone calls from community members. I remember skipping off to Surridges Newsagent on the corner after church to buy some penny sweets. I remember the installation of the MaxPax machine and the powdered chocolate at the bottom of the hot chocolate cups.
- ⊕ I will always treasure being confirmed with my cousin Jane Wornell, the day before my 13th birthday and Nana (Mona Saville) coming to tell me after the service how proud she was of her granddaughters. I still have the book that Rev Alan Ogier gave me to commemorate the occasion.
- ♣ I remember Easter Vigils, the 24-hour Stay Awake to raise money for the homeless, getting together and playing rounders with the youth groups from Thundersley Methodist and Hadleigh Methodist.
- ⊕ I remember thinking the Vestry was huge and the church corridors tall and dark.
- ⊕ Ultimately, Highlands means more to me than for many that live in Leigh today. It represents safety, the formation of my character, the foundation of my moral compass, family and friendship.
- ⊕ Thank you to Dad and Mum for giving Rupert and me the opportunity to be part of something bigger than ourselves.

[A huge thankyou to Andrew Saville and of course Katy for sharing that with all of us. Memories can mean so much.]

A Christmas Treat

I always like to make small gifts for Christmas – Florentines, fudge (Nigella's chocolate pistachio fudge is wonderful and so easy) and I thought I'd share this biscotti recipe. The biscotti will keep up to a month in an airtight tin, and are great with coffee.

Ingredients

350g plain flour 2 tsp baking powder 2 tsp mixed spice 250g golden castor sugar 3 eggs 85g raisins or sultanas 85g dried cherries or cranberries 50g blanched almonds 50g shelled pistachios Zest of 1 orange

What to do

- 1. Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4.
- 2. Line 2 baking sheets with baking paper (or silicon sheets)
- 3. Put flour, sugar, spice and baking powder in a bowl and mix well. Stir in beaten eggs and zest. Work the mixture into a dough this will take some effort and children might need help here. Keep kneading and it will come together.
- 4. Put dough on a lightly floured board and divide into 4 pieces. Roll each piece into a sausage (about 30 cm long) and put 2 sausages on each baking tray. Don't squash them all together on one tray! Bake for 25-30 mins until the dough has risen and it feels firm. It shouldn't be brown!
- 5. Remove from oven and leave to cool enough to handle. Turn oven down to 140C/120C fan/Gas 1.
- 6. Cut each sausage on the diagonal into slices about 1cm thick* and lay slices flat on the baking sheet again. I find it easier to cut with a serrated knife here. Bake for 15 mins, turn slices over and bake for another 15 mins until dry and golden.
- 7. You can freeze the biscuits at the point *. If baking for the second time from frozen, give them another 5 mins in the oven. Use different nuts and fruit depending on what you have.

JOB OPPORTUNITY – Billericay, Essex working from home and church office



Church Administrator (part time) 20 hours per week

A new post, and a new challenge, for someone with the passion, knowledge and experience to help develop a coordinated approach, including a growing online presence, for all aspects of administration and communication at Billericay Methodist Church.

Closing date for applications 22nd Nov 2020

For further details and application form see <u>https://billericaymethodistchurch.org/job-opportunities</u>

Humour Corner

Customer in Bookshop:

Do you have any books about turtles?

Assistant: Hardbacks, sir?

Customer in Bookshop: That's right – and little flat feet that stick out at the corners.

He reveals deep and hidden things. He knows what lies in darkness and light dwells with him

Daniel 2:22

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 <u>www.methodist.org.uk</u> is an excellent source of information and inspiration.

Items for the December 2020 issue should be emailed to andrewghyde@aol.com before Sunday 22 November. No email? Don't despair; just telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another.

Colossians 3:13