



The **HIGHLANDER**

December 2020¹

The monthly newsletter of Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh on Sea

11:00 am Sun 6 th	Café Church Using ZOOM <i>All are welcome</i>	Kathy McCullough
11:00 am Sun 13 th	Morning Worship Gift Service – Live Communion <i>Booking essential</i>	Pastor Steve Mayo
4:00 pm Sun 20 th	Carol Service <i>Booking essential</i>	Pastor Steve Mayo
11:00 am Fri 25 th	Christmas Worship Live <i>Booking essential</i>	Pastor Steve Mayo
11:00 am Sun 27 th	Morning Worship Using ZOOM <i>All are welcome</i>	Worship Leaders

Find more information at: 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.

¹ NB All the above services are subject to possible amendment if pertinent regulations and circumstances change

Highlands Methodist Church

Hospitality in the Midst of our Community

All telephone numbers are '01702' unless stated

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A Very Happy and Holy Christmas to All

Let me be the first to say this: it's been a funny old year (and it's not over yet).

It's up to us to make sure we celebrate Christmas properly despite Coronavirus COVID-19. Details of our services are on the cover as usual. There are less events than usual, because some of our favourites – for example the Christingle service – don't work under the present regulations. Some services are planned to take place using Zoom, and some are actually going to be live in the church. But I'll just share some notes that I hope you'll find useful.

- 1. It may not happen** As we've all learned now, we have to expect the unexpected, so these plans may have to be changed. If it happens, we'll tell you.
- 2. Let us know** I keep saying this, but because of the way the regulations work we can't risk too many people in the church (there's a phrase I never thought I'd need) so you have to book the services on 13, 20 and 25 December by emailing
- 3. Zoom** If you haven't tried it yet, give it a go. It's much easier than you think. Call any of the stewards to talk it over, and we can probably arrange some coaching.
- 4. Toy Service** This is difficult to do in the traditional way, so we are asking for cash gifts, and we'll keep you posted on how to make your donation, and where it will go.
- 5. Carols** It's not Christmas with out carols, so we plan to assemble outside the church immediately after the 20 December service (about 4:30 pm) to belt some out.



Services in January

I cannot say at the moment whether a January Highlander will appear, because my ideal scenario has me elsewhere. However to quote the Rolling Stones '*You Can't Always Get What You Want*'

So here is the plan for January as it stands currently. Any updates will be published via email and Facebook, and possibly an extra *Highlander*. Things could look very different by the time the new year arrives. Whether or not this happens I wish you a very happy, peaceful and above all healthy 2021.

11:00 am Sun 3 rd	Café Church Using ZOOM <i>All are welcome</i>	Kathy McCullough
11:00 am Sun 10 th	Morning Worship Communion Covenant Service <i>Booking essential</i>	Pastor Steve Mayo
11:00 am Sun 17 th	Morning Worship Using ZOOM <i>All are welcome</i>	Worship Leaders
11:00 am Sun 24 th	Morning Worship Using ZOOM <i>All are welcome</i>	Jane Fulford
11:00 am Sun 31 st	Morning Worship Using ZOOM <i>All are welcome</i>	Susie King

GOD
IS WITH
us

A Very Happy Christmas

and a very very

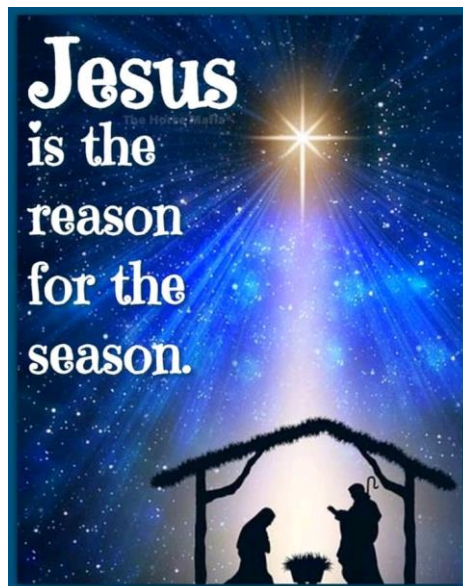
HAPPY

PROSPEROUS

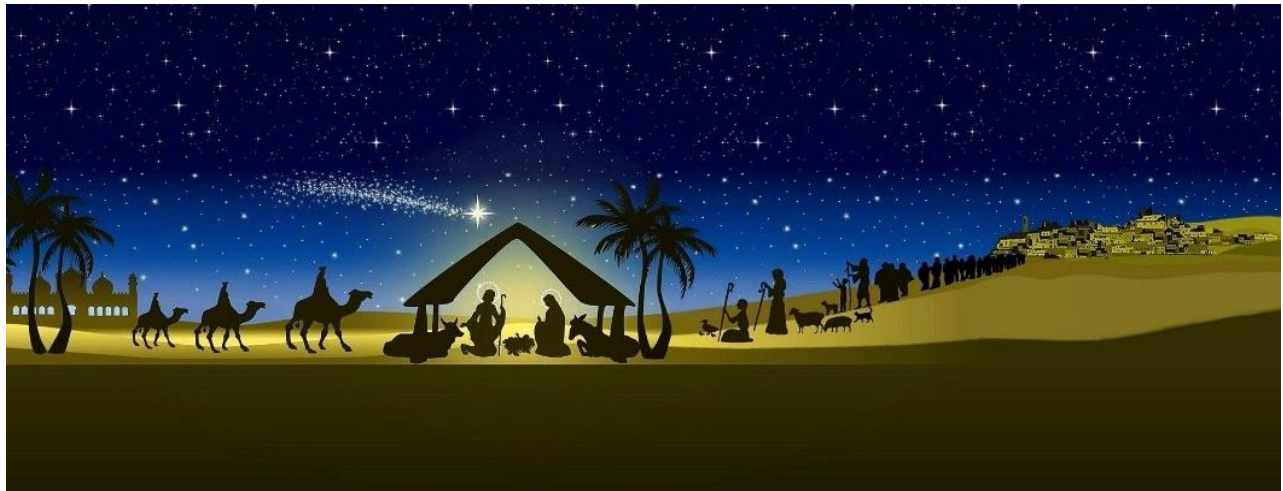
and above all

HEALTHY

**New Year to everyone at Highlands,
your families, and friends**



From Your Minister



Once again at this time of year we turn our thoughts to the birth of Jesus; but all too often the wonder of this awesome event is obscured by the trappings of Christmas – holidays, presents, food, television, etc. and this year by the fear and anxiety of a global pandemic. But it is worth having a much closer look at the wonder of God coming to earth as a baby.

Think of any photos of babies you may have around your house; maybe your children, grandchildren or great grandchildren, or even babies your friends and families may have had?

When we consider the 'life' of a baby, what are the characteristics of babyhood? Total dependence for warmth, food and love; wordlessness; everything is 'new'; inability to move where you want to; nappies, teething etc. And when we think about such things, we start to marvel that the eternal Son of God would submit Himself to the state of babyhood.

Christian author Philip Yancey once said;

'The God who roared, who could order armies and empires about like pawns on a chessboard, this God emerged in Palestine as a baby who could not speak or eat solid food or control his bladder,

and depended on a teenage couple for shelter food and love.'

- † You, Jesus, were willing to lay aside everything – your glory, your position, your power – for our sake.
- † You were obedient to your Father in coming to earth.
- † And in coming to earth as a helpless baby, not only were you trusting yourself to a young, inexperienced couple, but you were making yourself vulnerable to the attack of the devil through Herod. And yet you trusted your Father to keep you safe.

The Bible says;

'For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.' [Isaiah 9:6 KJV]

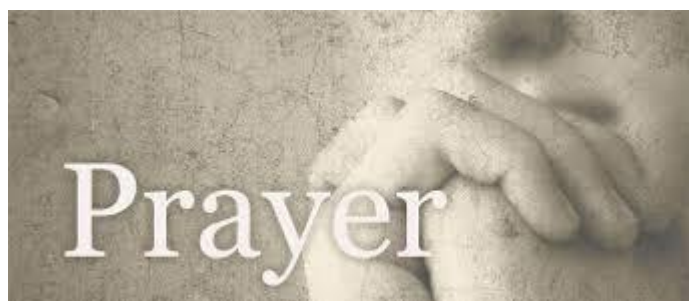
Given this wonderful description, readers of the Old Testament could be forgiven for expecting a glorious, triumphant entry into the world for the Messiah. But Jesus chose the way of obscurity, of humility and servanthood; yet those who seek Him will find Him to be the glorious Messiah described in Isaiah chapter 9.

What a wonderful example to us today is the incarnation of God, setting forth the pattern that Jesus would grow up to present to us; a pattern for living, a pattern of gentleness, humility and love. What a challenge for us as Christians!

As this season unfolds for another year, may we not only give physical gifts to others, but also gifts of our own gentleness, humility and love, as we follow the example of the baby in the manger.

May you be richly blessed as you celebrate the birth of Christ.

Pastor Steve Mayo
Email: pastorstevemayo@gmail.com
Telephone: 01702 483827



We pray for our friends who are ill, housebound, or bereaved² 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.

Our thoughts and prayers reach out to Natalia and Emma Threlfall at this sad time following the death of Martin - Natalia's husband and Emma's dad. Over recent years they have been a valuable part of our church family and we assure them both of our love in Jesus. Martin's funeral will be held at Southend Crematorium on Wednesday 2 December 2020 at 12.40pm.

...are also with our friends at Showstoppers, some of whom are unwell or particularly troubled at the moment. I cannot use names here but they are known to the Lord, as always.

...are also with everyone coping with sickness or disunity in their families, those facing operations and decisions about operations.

We thank all those who have looked after Rosalie Bryant. She suffered an injury on one of her regular lockdown peregrinations but is the kind of person who treats a broken wrist as a minor nuisance. Do take care out there Ros!

We congratulate...

Millie Rocca (granddaughter of Paul and Hilary Wornell) on being

² JE writes: our love and deepest sympathy to our editor Andrew on the loss of his dear brother Philip. We hold Andrew, Lesley and all their family in our prayers at this sad time.

'Student of the Year' at Hereford College, on graduating with a B.Tech, and now securing an apprenticeship with the NHS in their HR department.

...also Hannah Godden (Glenda Gillies's granddaughter) who is now Engineering Project Lead at Eurofighter Jagdflugzeug GmbH in Bavaria, Germany. They manufacture military aircraft, principally the *Typhoon* fighter used by the RAF.

... Aaron McCullough, completing a trio of grandchildren, on his 18th birthday. Kathy reports that he is keen on astrophysics, so the cake contains a 'black hole'. That would explain why the lettering isn't on top of the cake – the words would instantly be drawn down into oblivion!



...Heather Stanford who has joined the Highlands pastoral team and will be a very welcome asset.

And incidentally...

Stella and Keith Carter wish all their friends at Highlands a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Puzzle of the Month³

The manager of Clogamard FC tells his star striker, Terry Bolera, that if he scores 60% of the team's goals in the league he will get a £1,000 bonus. In their 12 games Terry scores 14 goals, and the rest of the team - put together - only score 11. Can Terry start planning what to spend his money on?



³ Answer page 23

Snippets

Prayer Box

This is now in its permanent position outside the Jubilee Room and will be checked regularly.

Anyone who would like to leave a message or a request for a prayer for themselves, for local friends or about an event in the locality, in the UK or overseas is most welcome to do so.

Andrew Saville hopes to do an upgrade presently with a lick of paint (on the box, obviously).



Showstoppers

Showstoppers write (originally on Facebook):

We are always overwhelmed by the kindness of our community. Last week Tessa, our wonderful volunteer, member of The Players Theatre Company and director of Stagecoach (both groups tirelessly raise funds for MODS and Showstoppers) came in to help with our crisp recycling. Our volunteers have had a huge job sorting through the lockdown packets and boxing them up.

Now, boxes are actually very expensive to buy and not cost-effective when raising money for a charity. Tessa approached our local The Big Yellow Self Storage Company to see if they could help and incredibly they donated 20 boxes. This means that all the money made from recycling can go straight into the pot. At this time, with no way of raising much-needed funds, that's fantastic. Thank you so much, Tessa and thank you so much, The Big Yellow Self Storage Company from all your friends at Showstoppers x

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.



Their need is getting ever greater so if you find it in your heart to donate, 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. Thank You.

Jean Edmonds

Highlands Hobbies at Home

Glenis and Jean plan to be at Highlands in Room 1 from 10:30 am until 12:00 noon on 3rd and 10th December. Depending on the rules at the time! We are currently limited to 6 including us, it is absolutely essential to check in with Jean (01702 525250), to avoid possible disappointment. We look forward to hearing from you.

Jean Edmonds

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

Serving the Homeless

HARP

A report from Jackie Bliss, Chief Executive:

The government aren't allowing the usual sort of church winter night shelters this year (or our former 'sit up' service where we put camp beds down in our Day Centre overnight).

This is because they are not COVID-safe. Daniel Cauchi from St Helens RC now works full-time for the St Vincent de Paul Society charity (SVP) who have taken on a lease for a property in Short Street. Some soup kitchens are moving in there, and Daniel hopes to persuade Southend Borough Council (SBC) to permit some sort of night shelter to be provided there in emergencies, for example if a SWEP (severe winter weather, below freezing, for several successive nights) is declared. It will not accommodate many, though, due to the difficulties of making it COVID-safe.

At HARP, we continue to take on more accommodation, and are supporting SBC in intensive working with former rough sleepers as they move from the B&Bs into private sector accommodation. We launched our new Housing First service in October, opening a nine-bedded drug & alcohol recovery unit in Chalkwell in July which is going really well.

We are about to take on another six-bedded property near York Rd. We are converting five rooms in our Bradbury hostel (Heath House) to replace our "sit up" service, so that we can do that COVID-safely.

A big worry is that there may be a lot of new people on the streets due to the eviction ban having been lifted, and the economic consequences of COVID (not to mention Brexit).

Christmas Concert, Friday 18 Dec 6:30 pm

Serving the Homeless (STH) is pleased to announce that our annual Christmas Concert has gone online this year!

On Friday 18 December you will be able to access it via YouTube. (details will be on Highlands website). You should then be able to revisit the recording as often as you like. We were able to film at Our Lady of Lourdes

and the other churches involved in 'Serving the Homeless' during October, thanks to Tim Browne. He kindly offered his services to film the various participants and then edit it into a film for us. We hope that you will find it a wonderful way to start your Christmas celebrations; our thanks to all the clergy and parishioners who took part.

Over the years STH has raised hundreds of thousands of pounds to support local projects, for example by

- supporting the development of the Day and Night Shelter that was eventually to become HARP, raising £70,000 to buy the freehold of the Valkyrie Road site and later sponsoring two rooms at the new Bradbury Centre at a cost of £10,000.
- purchasing properties used by Acorn and more recently by HARP to house clients.
- spending £250 per month on food used to provide meals for the homeless at the Bradbury Centre.
- financing the start-up costs of three of the churches' winter night shelters
- supporting numerous individuals with temporary accommodation, travel expenses and equipment.
- facilitating the development of accommodation for young people by Southend YMCA.
- continuing, during the recent pandemic, to finance Westcliff SVP to provide meals for the 100 rough sleepers put into temporary accommodation by SBC
- providing turkeys for Christmas lunches at the HARP properties and delivering Christmas parcels to all the young people at the YMCA over Christmas.

At Christmas, our Carol concert is normally followed by mulled wine and mince pies. However, this year we ask you to embrace technology and join us from home, although you may like to have your mince pies and wine to hand!

We wish you all the blessings of the Christmas season and looking forward to greeting you properly in the not too distant future.

Another innovation

We are deeply grateful to those who have made donations in these difficult times as we are unable to organise fundraising events. To make things easier we have also opened a PayPal account for direct donations to Serving the Homeless.

The link is :- <https://paypal.me/ServingtheHomeless>

Any donations by this method would be gratefully received.

Thank you for your continued support.

Frank Edmonds



A Note from our Special 'On the Streets' Correspondent

I took part in the annual rough sleeper count in Southend. This was a count right across the Borough of how many people had been bedded down out of doors between 01:00 and 03:00 on 25 November

There were less than I expected. Over our area (between the C2C railway line and the seafront) there were just two people sleeping rough. There were one or two around on foot, and evidence in one location that others had recently slept there. They were not counted and do not feed into the national statistics.

Interestingly the two rough sleepers we met were

1. Caroline⁴, a lady of 50-60 years, had come from another East Anglian coastal town and had been advised to return as she would be housed there, but not in Southend. She complained of being robbed in Southend.
2. Robbie⁵, about 30, came from a northern city, and had been given the same advice. He was a T1 diabetic and had some anger issues so his case was a little more complicated.

So, both of these people will be reported as wilfully homeless. Nevertheless the numbers are down, and credit to those responsible, even if it was a response to COVID. Now many who would otherwise be on the streets or at best in the shelters have a more secure and healthier situation, and a platform they can use to recover even further. Many homeless people I meet have both desire and ability to pull themselves up. In some measure due to COVID, they have more chance of doing it. God indeed moves in mysterious ways.

SotSC



An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord!

Luke 2:9-11

⁴ Not her real name

⁵ Not his either

From the Editor

Due to changes that have occurred in my close family, I acquired some boxes of old paperwork. Some of it is interesting, even poignant, but needing to be shredded (e.g. an HP agreement for the first furniture my parents bought). My dad (who died more than 30 years ago) worked at one time for HM Stationery Office.

He was a trained calligrapher, so he was called upon to hand-letter various documents; one example I remember seeing was the menu for the banquets on 3 and 4 June 1953 at Buckingham Palace celebrating the Coronation. I didn't unearth the original of that document, but I did find the one you can see on the next page, which I recognise as his hand. If you have sharp eyes you can see that he made an error in the very last line and had to patch in the word 'in' rather than spend hours redoing it!



Minnie Louise Haskins was a British poet and sociologist whose wide-ranging CV included Methodist mission in India and lecturing at the London School of Economics. Her small volume of poetry *The Desert* (1908) included the poem *God Knows*. She later added a preamble known as *The Gate of the Year* which George VI read out as part of his Christmas broadcast in 1939, a time when this nation was facing an even greater threat than that which confronts us now.

The words of Minnie Haskins brought comfort and inspiration to many people who heard them in 1939. I hope that they can do the same for you, 81 years later.

Anne

AND I said to the man who
stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light, that I may tread safely
into the unknown." And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness
and put your hand into
the hand of God. That
shall be to you better than
light and safer than a
known way"

So I went forth, and finding the
hand of God, trod gladly into
the night.

And he led me towards
the hills and the breaking of day
in the lone East.

"The Desert." M. LOUISE HASKINS, 1875-1957.



Jobs for the garden

From our Special Gardening Correspondent

Whilst there still are jobs to do in the garden, my enthusiasm for getting out there is lacking. My garden is still very wet from the rain in November and with the short grey days, my time in the garden gets shorter too each day.

But I'm passionate about making sure the wildlife gets as much help as I can give. Its no hardship not to tidy up – I am a lazy gardener - and I'm happy to leave piles of logs and leaves in corners. This will provide a happy home for insects and toads and also support some lichens. I do sweep the leaves off the steps and paths as otherwise I'll liable to slip over on them. And I can't bear the sludgy leaves on some plants so they get cleared away too.



Small mammals will often appreciate the warmth at the bottom of a good compost heap so again, I'm happy to leave turning the compost for a few months.

I'm sure we do all feed the birds and in the winter they really do need feeds with a high fat content such as suet balls, peanuts and sunflower seeds. The birds will spend a lot of energy coming to the feeders in your garden so make sure you keep them filled so they don't have a wasted journey. Do look at what's in the seed

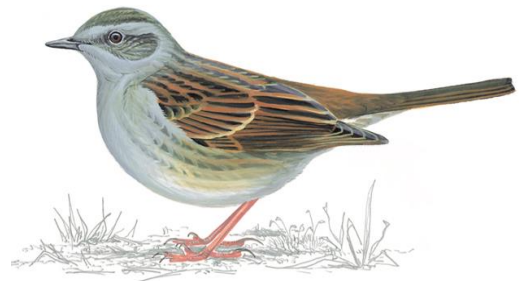
mixtures that you buy. Cheap seed mixtures may contain a lot of wheat. This is often flung aside by the birds as they sort through for the tastier seeds. Watch them and you'll see what I mean.

Lentils, split peas and beans are also often added to bulk up seed mixtures. These look nice, but only larger birds can eat them dry. Pigeons will love wheat and lentil-rich mixtures, but finches, tits and the smaller birds will give them a wide berth.



We've moved some of our feeders and the smaller birds prefer the feeder tucked away in the bare branches of the forsythia bush. In the mornings as we have breakfast, we delight in watching as the bush fills with sparrows and dunnocks⁶, jostling for their turn at the feeder. The

starlings still mob the other feeders further down the garden, more in the open. It's important not to forget the robins and blackbirds etc that feed on the ground. They will appreciate over ripe apples and dried fruit.



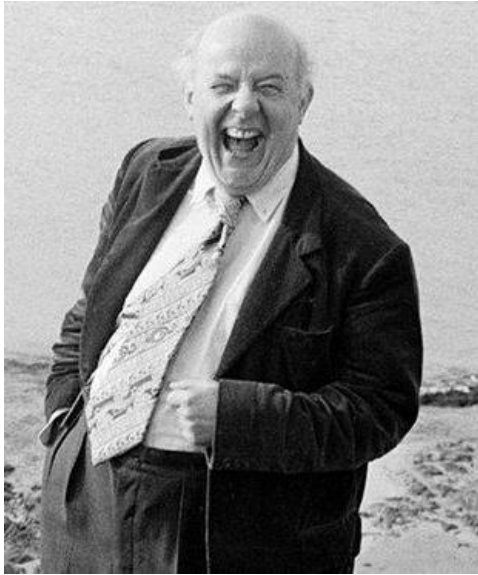
I hadn't seen many greenfinches lately – we used to get some in the garden – and I was reading that their numbers have declined drastically over the last years because of disease. I was very sad to find out that garden feeders were part of the problem and this has reinforced how important it is to regularly clean all feeders and bird tables. It's all too easy to put it off dismantling and cleaning the feeders until next week.

Finally, don't forget to provide fresh water for birds and other wildlife. It's really appreciated.

SGC

⁶ Very easy to confuse sparrows with dunnocks. In the pictures above the sparrow is top left, the dunnock bottom right

Poem for December



This poem, selected by my sister-in-law Joanna, is by Sir John Betjeman CBE (1906-1984) who was poet laureate, and widely known for his humorous takes on architecture and Englishness.

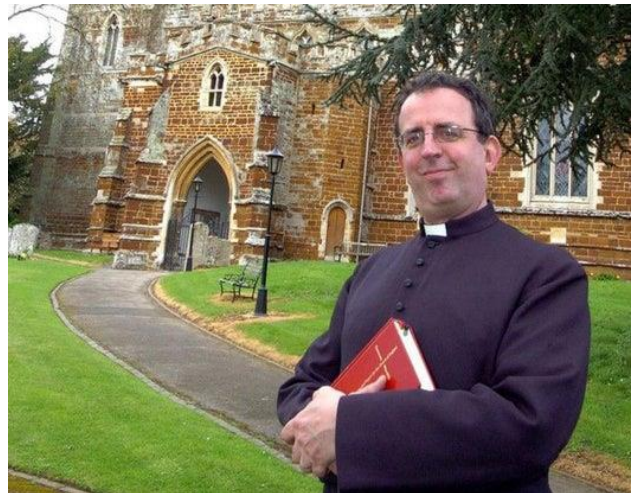
In this example he takes aim at the traditional English vicar and equally at his or her flock. In Methodism we don't have an exact equivalent, but you'll recognise the pictures that Sir John paints and also the typical vicar pictured below.⁷

The poem is longer than usual, but no less fun for that

Blame the Vicar by Sir John Betjeman

When things go wrong it's rather
tame
To find we are ourselves to blame,
It gets the trouble over quicker
To go and blame things on the Vicar.

The Vicar, after all, is paid
To keep us bright and undismayed.
The Vicar is more virtuous too
Than lay folks such as me and you.
He never swears, he never drinks,
He never should say what he thinks.



⁷ Or if you don't, he's Rev Richard Coles, vicar of Finedon Northants, former pop and 'Strictly Come Dancing' star.

He's on His Way

RIT 34Hz
Rita
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I hope that you are always seeing
Your Vicar as a human being,
Making allowances when he
Does things with which you don't agree.
But there are lots of people who
Are not so kind to him as you.
So in conclusion you shall hear
About a parish somewhat near,
Perhaps your own or maybe not,
And of the Vicars that it got.

One parson came and people said,
Alas! Our former Vicar's dead!
And this new man is far more 'Low'
Than dear old Reverend so-and-so,
And far too earnest in his preaching,
We do not really like his teaching,
He seems to think we're simply fools
Who've never been to Sunday Schools."
That Vicar left, and by and by

A new one came, "He's much too 'High',"
The people said, "too like a saint,
His incense makes our Mavis faint."
So now he's left and they're alone
Without a Vicar of their own.
The living's been amalgamated
With one next door they've always hated.

Dear readers, from this rhyme take warning,
And if you heard the bell this morning
Your Vicar went to pray for you,
A task the Prayer Book bids him do.
"Highness" or "Lowness" do not matter,
You are the Church and must not scatter,
Cling to the Sacraments and pray
And God be with you every day.

Puzzle of the Month

Terry will miss out on his bonus. The figures show that the team scored 25 goals, of which Terry notched 14. Multiply each of these figures by 4, and it's clear he only scored 56% of the team's goals. And he seems to have got injured as well. It could be worse. At least he doesn't play for



CENSORED

Remembrance

- † Robert Hopkins
- † Raymond Pitts
- † Eric Salt
- † William Weaving
- † Albert Willis

Many (most?) of you will recognise these names. They are carved on Highlands' Church wooden memorial to the fallen of the 1939-45 World War.

We have an annual service of remembrance, of course, paying tribute to these and others as a group. But as far as I know we have never recorded their individual stories, both for our own edification and for posterity. So I have two requests:

1. If you know anything about any or all of these individuals, or if you are aware of someone who remembers them, please get in touch. Even something as basic as the branch of the services in which they served would be of interest.

2. If your family lost someone who is not recorded here, please get in touch and tell me about them.

In the meantime Andrew Saville has done some research.

Raymond Pitts was a particular friend of Glenda Gillies' brother, also called Ray. He and their friends often assembled at Glenda's parents' house, as they were in the 9th Leigh Scout Troop based at Highlands. The boys would bring their scout staves to the house and then go off to Belfairs Woods.

Raymond Pitts was in the RAF and, it transpired, news was received that Raymond Pitts had been shot down over Italy, was killed and was buried there. After the war, a memorial was set up in Southchurch Park to display publicly the names of those from the Southend Borough who had lost their lives. Glenda's brother went to look at the memorial and found that Raymond Pitts' name was missing. There followed correspondence from Glenda and her brother to get Raymond Pitts' name added and apparently, they were successful. Whether the memorial is still there, or whether a photo has been retained in the Borough Council archives, could still to be followed up, but Glenda says she still has the correspondence. She said, when she used to attend the Remembrance Sunday services at Highlands, she would always take a photograph of Raymond Pitts with her.

Glenda also remembered Bill (**William**) **Weaving**, an only child, who just lived locally with his father and a lady housekeeper. Glenda remembered Bill's father as a pretty fearsome character. She was quite young at the time.

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means "God with us")

Matthew 1:23

A Bedtime Story

If we're very lucky this Christmas, there could be some very young people around who need a story read to them. With this in mind Irene has written one.

It brings back a memory of Boxing Day, when the standard fare was cold turkey and pickles. When I was young, piccalilli – I think that is the standard spelling – was always included. It seems to have lost popularity over the years. So many younger people will be unfamiliar but they can still buy it in Waitrose – but not Lidl I think. I have also come across home-made piccalilli, which tends to be quite fierce. Definitely an acquired taste. It has origins I think in South Asia, where strong flavours are the norm.



Pickle and Lily (A Tale of Two Kitties)

There were two little kittens. One was a little boy kitten called Pickle, so called because he was always getting into mischief; the other, a little girl kitten, was called Lily. They both had soft fluffy fur, and were black, grey and white. They were brother and sister.

One day they were taken away from their mummy and went to live in a house with two people who became their new owners. At first it was very strange and they missed their mummy and other brothers and sisters. But they soon settled down and used to cuddle up together to go to sleep.



Their new owners were very kind to them and they had lots of fuss made of them. They lived near a busy road and the first thing they had to learn was not to go out the front of the house. They didn't really understand but they didn't like the noise of the cars and lorries, so they decided it was safer to stay in

the house or in the back garden, where they had lots of room to run around and play. And get into mischief...

One day pickle saw a bright yellow jar on the worktop in the kitchen. He thought to himself: 'I wonder what this is. It looks very good to eat. I think I'll try and get it.'

Lily was a little more cautious and told him not to climb up on the worktop or he would get told off. But, being a very mischievous kitten, he thought he would try. After falling down a few times, he managed to climb up on a stool and then get onto the worktop. The lid was off the jar, so he went up and had a sniff. It didn't smell very nice! He couldn't get his paw up high enough to put it in the jar. So he gave it a push. The jar turned over and out poured all the yellow stuff and pickles. Well, we know what it was don't we! It was a jar of piccalilli!

He was so frightened by the bang the jar made, that he jumped down quickly, knocking the jar onto the floor, smashing it and treading the yellow pickle all over the place. He had it all over his fur and on his paws. He ran under the chair in the corner with Lily, and the pair of them started to try to lick it off. Yeeurgh! It tasted horrible - not at all like they expected. So there they were, two frightened little kittens with yellow stuff all over them, waiting to see what would happen.

When the mistress heard the crash she came running out from the other room, to see what had happened. At first she couldn't understand how a jar could have fallen off the side all by itself. Then she saw the tell-tale paw marks and followed them to the chair, where Pickle and Lily were crouched down looking up at her, their pretty little faces looking so scared, as they thought they would get a smack for being so naughty. But they both looked so funny with their yellow whiskers and bibs that she just burst out laughing, bringing their master onto the scene.

Of course, they had to have a bath. And what a job it was to get them clean! It taught them a useful lesson: never ever go anywhere near a yellow jar again.

Irene Downing

December Church Flowers etc

Flowers on 13 December will be donated by Frank & Jean in memory of family & friends

Those on 20 December will be donated by Jennifer Courtenay in memory of her parents.

Our Christmas trees have now been installed and decorated. Thanks to all who joined in.



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 January 2021 issue should be emailed to andrewghyde@aol.com before Sunday 27 December . No email? Don't despair; just telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.

But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of
Judah; for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.
Matthew 2:6

