



# *The* **HIGHLANDER**

**June 2025**

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

**These are services at Highlands for June 2025**

10:30 am Sun 1 <sup>st</sup>	Morning Worship Café Church	John Annim
10:30 am Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship Communion	Rev Heather Simmons
4:00 pm Sun 15 <sup>th</sup>	All Age Community Worship & Praise	Matt Bunkall
10:30 am Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Morning Worship	Bob Briant
11:00 am Sun 29 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship United Service at Wesley	Eileen Simmons



Highlands (Leigh) Methodist Church

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

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## **These are services at The Fishermen's Chapel for June 2025.**

9:30 am Sun 1 <sup>st</sup>	Morning Worship Communion	Rev Heather Simmons
7:30 pm Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> (Refreshments from 7:00)	Gospel Service	Rev Heather Simmons
7:30 pm Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	Evening Worship Anchored	Rev Heather Simmons
7:30 am Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Evening Worship Mindfulness	Rev Heather Simmons
11:00 am Sun 29 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship United Service at Wesley	Eileen Simmons



All the floral images in this month's issue are taken from Boulevard in Bloom, with grateful thanks to everyone who took part, especially our uniformed organisations, local traders and Master of Ceremonies, Matt.



## **Highlands Methodist Church**

### **Hospitality in the Midst of our Community**

All telephone numbers are '01702' unless stated

Minister	Rev Heather Simmons <a href="mailto:heather.simmons@methodist.org.uk">heather.simmons@methodist.org.uk</a>	07879 232231
Secretary to Church Council	David Watson	555702
Minutes Secretary	Vanessa Mayes	473787
Church Stewards	Andrew Hyde	473111
	Donald Mayes	473787
	Lesley Hyde	473111
	Jean Edmonds	801517
All Age Community Builder	Matt Bunkall <a href="mailto:mattbunkall@gmail.com">mattbunkall@gmail.com</a>	07305 769086
Church Treasurer	Steve Watson	07543 905641
Children's Worker	Ros Bryant	478631
Pastoral Co-ordinator	Jean Edmonds	801517
Church Flowers	Jean Edmonds	801517
Lettings/Use of Premises	Sam Watson <a href="mailto:highlandslettings@gmail.com">highlandslettings@gmail.com</a>	07510 808519

## **From Your Minister**

Dear Church Family,

A little poem to start us off...

### **June (by Ms Mal's Munchkins)**

June is the month  
Where we say goodbye to Spring  
We wave hello to Summer  
And fly a kite high on a string!  
The weather's getting hotter  
As the school year starts to end  
I'm really so excited  
To spend summer with my friends.



I loved this poem's child-like simplicity, reminding me of our call to be children. When we are in school it seems that the seasons are more pronounced, as they are marked by their named holidays and terms. If we work in other jobs the seasons can often blur, especially with our British weather that regularly has us fooled.



One of the beauties of our church calendar is that we too, mark the seasons and important events and anniversaries. It gives us rhythm and a sense of moving forward.

I chose this poem as it invites us to move excitedly into summer, be playful with a kite or our other pastimes and, most importantly, spend time with friends.

I was wondering whether Jesus got excited. We do not use the word for Jesus's behaviour, yet he was fully human as well as fully divine, so he must have got excited. I imagine he couldn't wait to return to his friends after his crucifixion – wow! I would have been beside myself with that surprise, wouldn't you?



Here is a verse I found that expresses Jesus' joy and excitement.

*At that very time He rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit..."*

Luke 10:21



Rejoiced greatly? The Greek word is *agalliaio*. The first syllable (*aga*) means 'much'. The second syllable (*llaiao*) means jump. The word literally translates as 'much jump!' Today we say 'jump for joy!' Was Jesus jumping for joy? I hope so.

This poem also talks of spending time with friends and of course we know Jesus spent many hours with his close friends and family. He walked with them, talked with them and ate with them.

As many of you know, I am being ordained with my probationer



friends in Telford/Shrewsbury on the 29 June. I am so excited not just for my part but to share the experience with my friends. I will be walking with my friends, talking with them and eating with them both on retreat and at the Conference. I know some of you are coming and some will be watching on the screen and the knowledge of your love and support fills my heart.

We have a precious gift of time to spend with loved ones. So as summer approaches I invite you to take the time to really *be with* your friends and family, be present with them, come off your phones, block out time in your diaries and leave the dusting for another day. Like Mary who sat at Jesus's feet to be with him, let's see Jesus in each other as we sit with one another this June and make sure we invite the 'Marthas' to sit with us too<sup>1</sup>!

We have lots of lovely services and activities going on at Highlands this month, so please come and see us and we can be excited together about the hope and joy that loving Jesus brings.

God bless,  
Rev'd Heather (Rev Hev!) x

PS A huge thank you to all who came to my Testimony Service last month!

## **Humour Corner**

*The trouble with having an open mind, of course, is that people will insist on coming along and trying to put things in it. — Terry Pratchett (1948–2015)*

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<sup>1</sup> In Luke 10:38–42 Martha complains about her sister Mary spending time with Jesus while there is work to be. Jesus calls Martha to respect Mary's choice, implying that Martha should join them.

## **Pope Francis on Hospitals**

He wrote these lines a few days before his death:

- ✦ The walls of hospitals have heard more honest prayers than churches.
- ✦ They have witnessed far more sincere kisses than those in airports
- ✦ It is in hospitals that you see a homophobe being saved by a gay doctor, a privileged doctor saving the life of a beggar in intensive care. You see a Jew taking care of a racist, a police officer and a prisoner in the same room receiving the same care, a wealthy patient waiting for a liver transplant, ready to receive the organ from a poor donor.
- ✦ It is in these moments, when the hospital touches the wounds of people, that different worlds intersect according to a divine design.
- ✦ In this communion of destinies, we realise that alone we are nothing. The absolute truth of people most of the time only reveals itself in moments of pain or in the real threat of an irreversible loss.
- ✦ A hospital is a place where human beings remove their masks and show themselves as they truly are, in their purest essence.
- ✦ This life will pass quickly so do not waste it fighting with people. Do not criticise your body too much. Do not complain excessively. Do not lose sleep over bills. Make sure to hug your loved ones. Do not worry too much about keeping the house spotless.
- ✦ Material goods must be earned by each person. Do not dedicate yourself to accumulating and inheritance.

- ✦ You are waiting far too much. Christmas; Friday next year when you have money; when love arrives; when everything is perfect... listen, perfection does not exist! A human being cannot attain it because we are simply not made to be fulfilled here.
- ✦ Here we are given an opportunity to learn, so make the most of this trial of life, and do it now. Respect yourself, respect others, walk your own path, and let go of the path others have chosen for you. Respect. Do not comment, do not judge, do not interfere. Love more, forgive more, embrace more, live more intensely, and leave the rest in the hands of the Creator.

HH Pope Francis PP<sup>2</sup> (1936-2025)

## **Diary Dates**

- Our next Classic Film Club will be on 27 June at 2:00 pm (and thereafter on the last Friday of the month), when we'll be watching '*The Pink Panther* (1963) directed by Blake Edwards. Peter Sellers plays Clouseau, the world's most inept detective, pitted against the world's most skilful thief.
- Saturday 21 June 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at Hadleigh MC - Circuit Quiet Day - In the Stillness: tickets free, can be booked on Eventbrite by 13 June latest. Come and listen out for God's voice for you. Bring own lunch.



<sup>2</sup> 'HH' stands for His Holiness, and 'PP' for Pastor Pastorum' (Shepherd of the Shepherds)



- Saturday 7 June 5:00 pm: When the Lights Go on Again. Further details of this Wesley event were in last month's Highlander
- On 29 June the Ordination of Rev Agnes<sup>3</sup> & Rev Heather goes ahead at St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury, and you can get free tickets from [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk). For information about transport please contact Jess in the Circuit Office 01702 479476.

### **And further ahead...**

- Highlands Pilgrimage. Sunday 10 August 12:00 noon -1:30 pm



<sup>3</sup> Rev Agnes Sam is minister responsible for Hockley & Hawkwell, Rochford and UMC Methodist churches.



**We pray for** our friends who are ill, housebound, or bereaved and for those in residential care: particularly *Sheena Hunter* in *Westerley Methodist Care Home*, and *Peggy Gosling*. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families.

We **pray especially for** a number of church members afflicted by long-term illnesses and short-term accidents or recovering from surgery.



## **Snippets**

### **Games.**

Due to low attendances, we are suspending games meetings. It may be that the brighter weather has attracted people out to tend (or just enjoy) their gardens. Not forgetting *Boulevard in Bloom* of course.

I have heard it mentioned that some would like to restore table tennis. Thumbs up to that. Does anyone know of a foldaway table, decent condition, looking for a good home?

### **Hobbies.**

We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon. The cost is £3 including refreshments. On

- 5 June – we'll be painting CDs to make a wind spinner for the garden.

- 19 June - making Spirelli (string art) shapes with the opportunity to make a card.

Advance dates for July are the 3 and 17. More details in the next Highlander. On 17 July we will finish for the summer holidays and resume in September. All are welcome at any time

## **From the Editor**

I often hear the phrase 'Britain is Broken'. I dislike it for two main reasons.

Firstly the word 'broken' seems to be a cliché here. It is imprecise and tendentious, being commonly used to make political points. I would prefer it if people looked for faults that can be put right (and then got on with it).

Secondly it is not true to say that the whole of this country is broken. I offer some examples of non-brokenness:

1. our 15 beautiful National Parks, especially at this time of year
2. the freedom I have to speak and worship as I wish
3. the fact that this is the sixth wealthiest country on the planet
4. the National Health Service

Even before I finish writing this list, I sense that some will regretfully light on the NHS as an example of something that is manifestly broken.

That view is open to challenge The average life span in 1950 when the NHS had just come into being into being was around 69 years. Now the average UK lifespan is about 81 years. Infant mortality (from 0 to 5 years old) was 44.27 deaths for every 1,000 children born in 1950. Today the equivalent rate is about 3.9 per thousand.

Undoubtedly, long waiting lists for surgery, and delayed ambulances, and inaccessible GPs (etc) are a fact. But the root causes lay in our longer lifespans, the vast range of costly treatments and medication

available, and our sharply increased expectations. Medicine is still a wonderful thing, and the NHS still an effective way of delivering its benefits fairly to those who need them.

I have therefore included in this issue writings from Michael Rosen (on the NHS) and His Late Holiness Pope Francis (on people who give care). I hope you like them, but if you don't, you're very welcome to write to me about it. It is after all a free country.



### **Puzzle of the Month<sup>4</sup>**

Which two letters go before all six of these to make in each case a new word?

- |        |        |         |
|--------|--------|---------|
| • EAR  | • INK  | • OWNS  |
| • EDGE | • APED | • OUGHT |

Now, just because that was too easy, try to get the shortest possible sentence that makes sense (more or less) and contains all of the six words created.

### **Humour Corner**

Interviewer: *What would you say was your greatest weakness?*

Job applicant: *Unfortunately, I'm completely honest and open.*

Interviewer: *Unfortunate? I'd say that was strength not a weakness...*

Job applicant: *I couldn't care less what you think*

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<sup>4</sup> Solution page 16

## **Poem of the Month**



Born 1946 in Harrow to an Ashkenazi Jewish family, Michael Rosen is an English children's author, poet, presenter, political columnist, broadcaster, activist, and a professor of children's literature at the University of London. Among his proudest achievements is that of becoming a much-followed internet meme consisting of him turning to the camera and saying 'nice'.

In 2020, he almost died with suspected COVID-19 while spending 7 weeks in intensive care at Whittington Hospital.

This poem follows that experience with a paean to the NHS, as well as a topical reference to a recent political comment.

### **My Island of Strangers Michael Rosen (1946 - )**

I lay in bed  
hardly able to breathe  
but there were people to sedate me  
pump air into me  
calm me down when I thrashed around  
hold my hand and reassure me  
play me songs my family sent in  
turn me over to help my lungs  
shave me, wash me, feed me,  
check my medication  
perform the tracheostomy;  
people on this 'island of strangers' from China, Jamaica, Brazil,  
Ireland, India, USA, Nigeria and Greece.



I sat on the edge of my bed  
and four people came  
with a frame and supported me  
or took me to a gym  
where they taught me how to walk  
between parallel bars  
or kick a balloon,  
sat me in a wheelchair  
taught me how to use the exercise bike  
how to walk with a stick  
how to walk without a stick  
people on this 'island of strangers' from China, Jamaica, Brazil,  
Ireland, India, USA, Nigeria and Greece.

If ever you're in need as I was  
may you have an island of strangers  
like I had.

## **News from our Circuit,**

We are now on Instagram as well as continuing our Facebook page.  
The links below will take you to the pages:

Southend&LeighMethodists (@southendandleighmethodists) • Instagram photos  
and videos

Southend and Leigh Methodist Circuit | Facebook

The remit for the Instagram page is currently to engage the wider community in what we do & share how we live as Methodists. The initial theme is based around the 12 stations on the Methodist Way of Life. For the moment, the Instagram page will highlight Circuit events but not advertise specific church events unless it fits with what the posts are at that particular time.

## **Dining In**



### **Asparagus, courgette and goats cheese tart**

This is a lovely summerly recipe that uses the wonderful English asparagus that's in the shops now. You could always substitute feta for the goat's cheese. It's from my favourite food author, Rukmini Iyer.

### **Serves 4**

#### **Ingredients**

2 courgettes, thinly sliced  
200g asparagus  
1/2 tbs olive oil  
1/2 tsp sea salt

1 lemon - zest only  
1 x 320g puff pastry sheet  
2 tbs crème fraîche  
100g goat's cheese, with rind, thinly sliced

#### **Method**

- Preheat oven to 180° deg fan/gas mark 6
- Mix courgettes and asparagus in a bowl with the oil, salt, lemon zest and some black pepper.
- Lay the puff pastry on a lined roasting tray and spread with the crème fraîche, leaving a 2.5 cm border around the edge.
- Arrange the courgette rounds on the crème fraîche and then the goat's cheese, finishing with the asparagus.
- Transfer to oven and cook for 30 mins.

Serve with a salad or roasted tomatoes.

## **Puzzle of the Month Solution**

The two letters are D and R. Here is my sentence:

*Though the weather worsened from a drear drought to rain that drowns everything, leaving clothes draped in water, I was able to dredge pleasure from my journey without resorting to drink. Can you do better?*

## **Humour Corner**

Husband: *Will you still love me when I'm old and grumpy and wrinkly?*

Wife: *Yes of course I do.*



↑ This is the original farmhouse for the land that is now Highlands estate. Winner of *Bvd In Bloom*, it still stands 250m west of Highlands Church at the corner of Olive Avenue and Walker Drive.

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

### **Children and Young People**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Scouts	Thu 7:30 to 9:00 pm	Jack Reeve 07847 355859
Cubs	Thu 5:45 to 7:15 pm	Chloë Nuttman <sup>5</sup> 07570 040085
Rainbows	Wed 4:00 to 5:00 pm	Julie Griffiths 07834 321724
Brownies	Wed 5:30 to 7:00 pm	Teresa Thompson 07809 219729
Guides	Fri 7:00 to 9:00 pm	Jacqui Hendle 07961 545037
Rangers	Thu <sup>6</sup> 7:00 to 9:00 pm	Jacqui Hendle 07961 545037
Toddlers	Mon 9:30 am to 11:30	Ros: 478631 Margaret: 557512

### **Fellowship Groups**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Prayer	Tue 9:00 to 10:00 am	Andrew Hyde 473111
Chatter	Tue 10:00 am to 12:00 noon	Rosalie 478631

### **Services to the Community**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Lunch Club	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 12:00	07951 963730 Registration essential

### **Social and Recreational**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Hobbies	1 <sup>st</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> Thu 10:00 am to noon	Jean 801517

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<sup>5</sup> Chloë is a temporary contact while Jordan is on a break

<sup>6</sup> Every fortnight

For updated news keep following  
[www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk](http://www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk) or  Highlands (Leigh)  
Methodist Church. Also [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk) is an excellent  
source of information and inspiration.

Items for the July 2025 issue should be emailed to me  
[andrewghyde@aol.com](mailto:andrewghyde@aol.com) before the early **deadline of Sunday 22  
June<sup>7</sup>**. No email? Don't despair; just telephone 473111 to  
arrange an alternative.

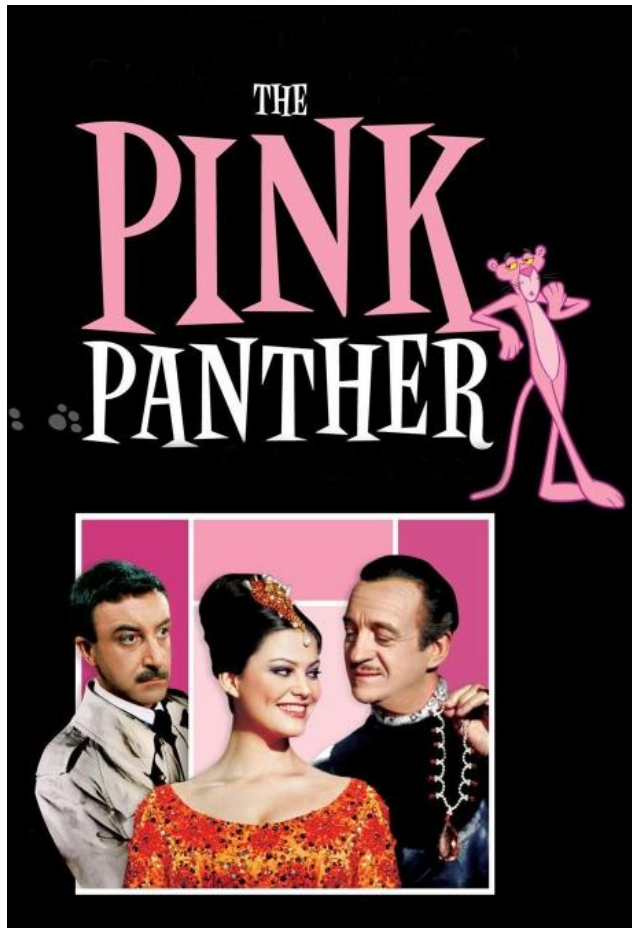
All contributions and correspondence (including images) are  
welcome subject to editorial control by the minister and stewards,  
and copyright.



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<sup>7</sup> Sorry about that, but the following week I'll be in Norway





### ↩ Don't Miss...

...*The Pink Panther* Fri 27 June.  
Movie starts at 2:00 but come along earlier for soup and rolls. I dare say ice cream will also be available.

### Final Image ↓

Below we see Pulteney Street in Bath, a masterpiece of Georgian symmetric town planning that belongs on everybody's bucket list.



# JUNE HIGHLIGHTS AT HIGHLANDS

1 June 10:30

Café Church  
with John Annim

8 June 10:30

Morning Worship & Holy  
Communion  
With Rev  
Heather

15 June 10:30  
THIRD SUNDAY  
All-Age Worship (4  
pm) + Beach Football  
⊕ (2- 4) ⊕

22 June 10:30

Morning Worship  
with Bob Briant

## HIGHLANDS MOVIES

Friday 27 June 1:30 pm for 2  
*The Pink Panther* with Peter Sellers  
and David Niven

