



The **HIGHLANDER**

April 2021

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

7:00 pm Thurs 1 st (Maundy Thursday)	United Service (using ZOOM ³)	Pastor Steve and Dani Mayo
11:00 am Fri 2 nd (Good Friday)	United Service (using ZOOM ¹)	Pastor Steve Mayo
11:00 am Sun 4 th (EASTER SUNDAY)	Easter Worship LIVE ² at Highlands	Kathy McCullough
11:00 am Sun 11 th	Morning Worship (using ZOOM ³)	Pastor Steve Mayo
11:00 am Sun 18 th	Morning Worship (using ZOOM ³)	Worship Leaders
11:00 am Sun 25 th	Morning Worship (using ZOOM ³)	Sue Hockett



Highlands (Leigh) Methodist Church

¹ Please contact Andrew Hyde (andrewghyde@aol.com or 01702 473111) for login details

² You must contact Julie Peek (01702 479804) in advance to attend this service

³ These services will use the normal Sunday morning Zoom login



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.

Highlands Methodist Church Hospitality in the Midst of our Community

All telephone numbers are '01702' unless stated

Minister	Pastor Steve Mayo pastorstevemayo@gmail.com	483827
Secretary to Church Council	Kathy McCullough/Margaret Wood	714528
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Children's Workers	Jean Edmonds Ros Bryant	525250 478631
Pastoral Co-ordinator	[position vacant]	
Church Flowers	Jean Edmonds	525250
Lettings/Use of Premises	Les Davis	558381
Older Persons' Worker	Julie Peek	479804

From Your Minister



Easter, that wonderful time of the year when we can remember the sacrifice of Jesus for each of us and celebrate our risen Saviour all in the same weekend!

Unlike last year, and for those who feel they can, we are able to attend a live service in our churches on Easter Sunday morning and thereafter, although still under the strict COVID-19 restrictions of social distancing, masks and unfortunately, no singing still!

This may make our Easter celebrations feel a bit staid this year. It will be great to actually see each other, but it will feel different from Easters past. I'll still be producing a YouTube service, and along with churches using Zoom for their services, we'll still be able to have a good sing at home.

This had been a difficult year. But hopefully us returning to church on 4 April will be the start of new and exciting things to come. God hasn't finished with us yet!

And as we ponder what our churches will look like when we are fully open, may we pray that God would show us new opportunities for us to serve Him in the coming days. May He open our eyes to new ministry opportunities both inside our churches, and outside.

Pope Francis once said:

'We proclaim the resurrection of Christ when his light illuminates the dark moments of our existence.'

This has been a dark year, but as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the Light of the World, may we shine for Him and light the way for others.

Easter blessings, Pastor Steve
April 2021
pastorstevemayo@gmail.com
01702 483827



Humour Corner

Customer in hardware shop (holding a tin of 'Pest Doom')
Is this any good for wasps?

Assistant
No sir, it kills them.



Correction

David Mallett still offers tuition in French, German, Spanish and Italian but his correct telephone number is 07717 671965. Apologies to David.



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

We think particularly of **Julia Monaghan**, whose ovarian cancer has reappeared. Julia typically is meeting the challenge head-on, and she has recorded a number of frank conversations on Instagram, which anyone can follow, using first this link:



<https://www.instagram.com/p/CMZNPIIAvGS/>

Meanwhile we pray not only for Julia but also Sam, Andrew and Beth.

We give thanks on behalf of **Katy Kollacz** (née Saville), now recovering from successful surgery, and we pray for her return to full health. Also for **John Crookall** (leg injury) and **Pastor Steve** (COVID) who are on the mend, and **Adrian Gravatt** who suffered a fracture.

Steve in particular has recovered in time for an important programme of interviews and assessments connected to his ministry. The aim of becoming an 'official' Methodist minister is one we can all pray for and support. At the same time his mum **Valerie Davis** is quite unwell at the moment, and our prayers go to her as well.

From the Editor

I have been looking at a recent 'IPSOS' survey conducted in partnership with the World Economic Forum. People were asked
'If a vaccine for COVID-19 were available to me, I would get it'.

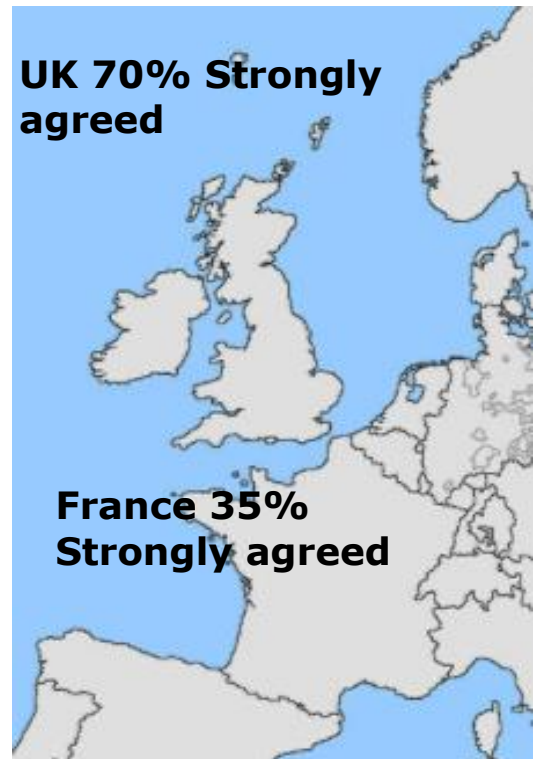
You can see a couple of the local results on the right-hand side here.

So, what on earth is going on here? Are French people less intelligent or less well-educated than the British? Or are they more suspicious, hence more ready to accept conspiracy theories? Well, the answers I think are 'no' and 'no'. The fact is that whatever we might think, people tend to listen to their national leaders. Generally speaking, this is consistent with Christian faith, as St Paul makes clear:

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.
Romans 13:1

(There is of course a debate to be about governing authorities that appear not to have been established by God, but we'll leave that for another day.)

Being intelligent and well-educated, you are probably familiar with the German word '*Schadenfreude*'. But just in case, it is 'pleasure derived by someone from another person's misfortune'. Now, there is no single word in English for this, and I for one am quite smug about that, because schadenfreude is the opposite of compassion and not really a Christian way of thinking, as St Peter



reminds us:

Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.

1 Peter 3:8

Coming back to the contrast between the UK welcome for COVID-19 vaccines, and the frosty reception of others in Europe, some of the popular press has shown a good deal of schadenfreude about EU vaccination and infection rates. We really need to avoid joining in with this. The past year has surely taught us that our prayer as Christians should not be for the defeat of the virus within our own borders (which the virus ignores anyway). It must be for defeating the virus right across the globe, including Asia, South America, Africa and yes, even France.

Oh, and the other thing about schadenfreude is that eventually it comes back and bites you. Anyone fancy a week in the Algarve this year?

Ana



PS

Did you know that schadenfreude has a companion German word 'gluckschmerz'? It means 'grumpiness about the good fortune of others' It's no more Christian than schadenfreude:

'You shall not covet ... anything that belongs to your neighbour.
Exodus 20:17

but it's more fun to pronounce.



A Message from the Circuit Superintendent

Many of you have been curious, and naturally so, about when, where, how and why live services (and singing!) can resume. I can't do better than share the message below from Pete Moorhouse to all the church stewards and other officers:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for everything you have done.

These are indeed strange times we are living through. Usually at this moment we would have suspended all the church business and focused on a good spring clean of the soul as we travel through

Lent. Instead, we find ourselves in a never-ending circle of asking the same question of what we should do next? The uncertainty is having an effect on the whole of society.



Just recently Public Health Essex in conjunction with all the local councils wrote to all churches advising us that it was safe to return to public worship under the same precautions that were in place in December. They also advised that Churches should remain closed unless all the precautions and restrictions required by the Government are in place.

So, it looks as if we will celebrate another major festival without communal singing. At least, for those who feel safe to do so, we can celebrate Easter together in our buildings, even if we are

socially distanced. As per usual all the legal responsibility for how Covid Secure the church is lies with the Managing Trustees (the Church Council). So, please remember that if the church is to reopen for worship the church council needs to sign off on the risk assessment and agree to be open. [Highlands has done this.]



With all this in mind we recommend that you shouldn't return to Sunday Worship until Easter Sunday 4 April⁴ giving enough time to complete the necessary precautions. Please keep safe; we as the Methodist

Church and circuit will still provide opportunities to worship online. For those who aren't online we will provide Home Service sheets. On behalf of the Circuit Leadership Team of the Southend and Leigh Circuit, we pray that in this season of Lent you may find God anew, afresh and take this opportunity to still prepare yourself for celebrating God's wonderful gift of eternity provided to us through the Easter story.

Yours in Christ

Rev'd Peter J Moorhouse And CLT of S&L Circuit.

⁴ See Back Page!

Snippets

Hobbies.

Dear Friends

I do hope some of you are enjoying your additional Easter crafts that Marjorie kindly put together for us. We are still watching the rules but will make sure you all know the soonest we can be together for our Hobbies sessions.

Meantime if anyone would like some Easter or Birthday cards Ros ☎478631 or Margaret ☎557512 would be happy to help.

Regards ☎Jean 525250 and Julie ☎479804



Serving the Homeless

A report from our Chairperson, Jo Ronan :

'On Thursday 25th March the new Homely Project was officially opened at the YMCA Southend. Due to COVID-19 restrictions this was an online event, but we were delighted to be able to take part. I am especially pleased to be able to tell you that the new suite of rooms, that will help vulnerable young people make a fresh start, have been named in memory of Jim McEvoy.

Jim was a great supporter of Serving the Homeless, helping us to provide the music at our Christmas Concerts and supporting our events. He worked tirelessly to help the youngsters in the town, working on the SOS Bus, as a Street Pastor and in the Night Shelters, and so it is very fitting that the new rooms should bear his name. I know that Fran and his boys are very pleased that money donated in Jim's memory has been used by us in this project. We are happy to have played a part in this development which has also been supported by Land Aid.

We would like to thank all of you who continue to support the work of Serving the Homeless through your donations and prayers.'

It is good to know that the work continues during the pandemic.
Thank you for your support

Leprosy

We may think of leprosy as a disease of Biblical times. But there are almost a quarter of a million new leprosy cases diagnosed each year.

Another fact: there is a cure for leprosy. However, for every person treated there are 20 needing the cure. So leprosy hides in remote places, in countries like Mozambique where there are no doctors and medical care is scarce. There, leprosy is shrouded by fear and misunderstanding, which means people with the disease face extreme discrimination.

A charity called The Leprosy Mission is trying to change this. Obviously they need your money, but for the moment, just go to their website www.leprosymission.org.uk to find out more. You can also find information on our Facebook page.

St Margaret of Antioch

It was interesting to receive a flyer from our neighbours in Lime Avenue which made clear that they like us are emerging like a chrysalis from the winter of lockdown, planning a programme around Easter. Services are either within the church and socially distanced.

They are also looking forward to St Margaret's Day (20 July, but you knew that...) when they are planning a garden party in the evening. You might want to put that into your diary before it gets too full.

Congratulations - Les Davis

We send our best wishes to Les who will celebrate his 90th birthday on this Easter Sunday 4 April. He prefers (I am told) a low-key celebration, but I assume his daughter Jackie and son John (and two grandsons) will join him, if not in person then on-line.

Les has been an active member of Highlands since his retirement from a career in the oil business that took him and his late wife Margaret all over the world. His most prominent roles at Highlands have been as manager of our property lettings and director of our occasional choir.

Congratulations and many happy returns.



Money Matters **An update from the Treasurer** **Our Funds**

For the first 6 months of the church financial year (Sept 2020 to the 28) expenditure exceeded income by about £4,700. Our funds stood at £24,984. This is better than anticipated in December mainly because the Circuit reduced our February quarterly assessment⁵ charge by 50% to £3052 (saving us the same).

Also, we have been allowed to pay monthly. Consequently, we only paid £1,017 in February.



⁵ Assessment is the amount the Circuit charges to churches to help pay ministers' salaries, the upkeep of the manses and some other expenses

During the 6 months our Offerings income (all forms) of £7,458 was much the same as last year. Thanks to all for that and for the donations of £1,393. However, lettings income was £8,000 less than normal. Easing lockdown should help, but even so it could be some time before lettings income, our mainstay, significantly recovers. To add to our financial woes our boilers need urgent replacement at a likely to cost of about £40,000. More on that in the near future.

How to Give

If you would like to set up a Standing Order (SO), convert to SO from envelope giving, or donate directly to the Church, please use the following Bank details:

Bank: TSB

Account name: Highlands Methodist Church.

Sort Code: 30-94-26

Account: 00516684

Alternatively, to donate by cheque, make this out to 'Highlands Methodist Church' and post or deliver to me at the following address:

David Watson, 47 Berkeley Gardens, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 2TD

You can also use the above method to post or deliver a cheque relating to envelope payments. Either send the envelopes themselves with the cheque or retain for recording purposes. Envelope system cash or indeed any cash is acceptable. This of course needs to be delivered.

Thanks to you all.

DW

Future Mission Planning

The District is organising some Zoom sessions in May and June for circuits and churches to plan for the future of Mission in a post-COVID world. District Discipleship Enabler, Angela Brydon and Emma Nash from the Evangelism and Growth Team will discuss some basic principles for mission planning.

If you are interested or for more information, please visit Eventbrite. Now, many of you will not have used Eventbrite yet. Please don't be put off – it's really quite easy and costs nothing. Follow this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mission-planning-training-for-beds-essex-herts-methodists-tickets-141452639653>

If following the link doesn't seem to work, do ask a steward to help.

Puzzle of the Month⁶

A trio of quick logic puzzles. They're easy enough, but you need just a touch of lateral thinking.

1. There are five sisters in a room; nobody else. Angela is painting. Belinda is playing chess. Catherine is sewing. Diana is reading. What is Eleanor doing?
2. I have eight eggs. I crack two. I fry two. I eat two. How many eggs do I have left?
3. Alex and Bill are standing by a river. Each of them wants to cross, but the boat can only take one of them. How do they manage to do it?



⁶ Solution page 19

Poem for April

This month's poem is chosen by Eileen Simmons. It's a poem by Susan Coolidge (1835–1905), an American children's author best known, perhaps, for the *What Katy Did* series of books. It reflects a constant theme of moving forwards rather than dwelling on the past

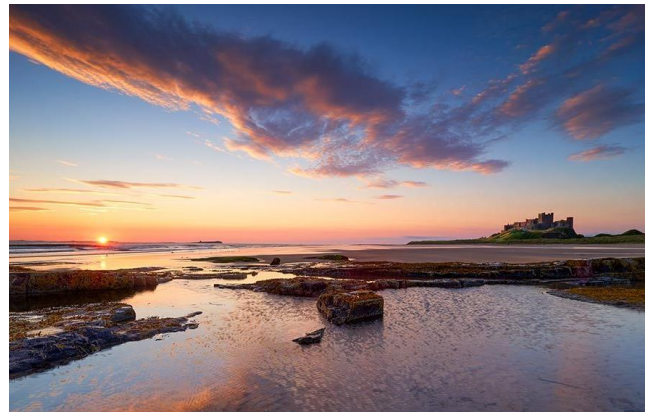
New Every Morning

Every morn is the world made new.
You who are weary of sorrow and sinning,
Here is a beautiful hope for you,—
A hope for me and a hope for you.

All the past things are past and over;
The tasks are done and the tears are shed.
Yesterday's errors let yesterday cover;
Yesterday's wounds, which
smarted and bled,
Are healed with the healing
which night has shed.

Yesterday now is a part of
forever,
Bound up in a sheaf, which God
holds tight,
With glad days, and sad days,
and bad days, which never
Shall visit us more with their bloom and their blight,
Their fullness of sunshine or sorrowful night.

Let them go, since we cannot re-live them,
Cannot undo and cannot atone;
God in his mercy receive, forgive them!



Only the new days are our own;
To-day is ours, and to-day alone.

Here are the skies all burnished brightly,
Here is the spent earth all re-born,
Here are the tired limbs springing lightly
To face the sun and to share with the morn
In the chrism of dew and the cool of dawn.

Every day is a fresh beginning;
Listen, my soul, to the glad refrain,
And, spite of old sorrow and older sinning,
And puzzles forecasted and possible pain,
Take heart with the day, and begin again.

From the Archives

Andrew Saville and I agreed that a list of Highlands ministers would bring back some memories for our older readers. So it was that Andrew S took on the project. He writes:

I thought it would be a straightforward job to list all the Highlands ministers since 1926. Well, it was not as easy as I had thought, as there were one or two gaps in the data and an extra name or two. I have now been able to resolve these inconsistencies, although clarifying the dates was more difficult.

I would like to thank Rosalie Bryant, Frank Edmonds, and Andreas Botzios for their assistance. It would be good to hear from anyone who has clear evidence that any of the information is inaccurate.

After two or three months, we might prepare an appeal for a donation or two to commission a professional presentation of the list and frame it for display somewhere on the premises. Alternatively, we could type it ourselves, on a decent sheet of Conqueror paper and pay for picture framer to frame it, as of course Steve Mayo will

become a reverend gentleman soon and there will be many others who (eventually) follow him – so we hope and pray.

Highlands Ministers from the Earliest Days

Rev. A E Folley	1926-28
Rev E H Metherell	1928-29
Rev. R R Stallard	1929-30
Rev. Gerald Lansley	1930-34
Rev. E Hardwick BSc	1934-37
Rev. E. Ralph Bates	1937-40
Rev. W. Charlesworth	1940-43
Rev. Henry Maddock	1943-45
Rev. Richard A Boggis	1945-50
Rev. Garfield Wade MA	1950-56
Rev. Harry Allen	1956-63
Rev. J Kenneth Meir BA PhD	1963-69
Rev. Frank Ames BA	1969-74
Rev. Arthur H Freeman	1974-81
Rev. Alan Ogier	1981-91
Rev. Mark Goodhand	1991-96
Rev. Graham Hindle	1996-2004
Rev Margaret Millar	2004-07
Rev. Suzette Manning	2007-10
Rev Bryan Tolhurst	2010-12
Rev. Julia Monaghan	2012-18
Rev. Norman Hooks	2018-20
Pastor Steve Mayo	2020





Jobs for the garden **From our Special Gardening Correspondent**

Since writing about lily beetles last month, I've been reading up on how many of our 4,000 native species of beetle are struggling to survive and how we can help.

They are struggling through loss of habitat, climate change and pesticides. Our gardens can really help in providing corridors for beetles to pass through until they find the right spot.



And beetles are really important - many ground beetles feed on invertebrates such as vine weevils; beetles themselves provide food for hedgehogs and birds; some are pollinators and other clear up dead plant waste. So, although some may eat our plants, we do need them in the garden.

The 7-Spot is the commonest of 47 species of ladybird in the UK

Stag beetles, the UK's largest, occur in Essex. Scary-looking but harmless if left alone



We can help by not keeping our gardens too tidy, maybe leaving a pile of old logs in a corner. Rotting wood and leaves make a perfect home for all sorts of insects. We need to keep our water butts covered and provide a route out of ponds as most beetles, apart from the water beetles, can't survive long in water. If you don't have a compost heap, maybe now is the time to build one as it will attract all sorts of creatures. And

please don't be tempted by artificial grass – it's so bad for the environment in general and bees and beetles in particular.

Finally, we need to think about whether we can live together with our beetles – and see them as part of a healthy balanced garden. Can we put up with a few nibbled leaves and learn to love our beetles? It's easy to love the ladybirds, the glow worms and to be impressed by the stag beetles that we have here in Essex and even the dung beetle. But I have to confess I'm still struggling with the lily beetle – which is not a native here in the UK.



Humble but essential. The unappreciated dung beetle

We are lucky in Leigh to have the increasingly rare glow worm on our doorstep. They feast on slugs and snails and are quite reclusive. But on a warm, dry, dark night in June or July you can find the females out on Belton Hills, lighting their lights, strutting their stuff and looking for love!

SGC

Puzzle of the Month Solution

1. Eleanor is playing chess with Belinda.
2. You have six eggs left. The two eggs you ate were the same eggs you fried, which were the same ones you cracked.
3. Alex rowed across, then Bill rowed back. They were of course on opposite sides of the river.

Sometimes we miss clues because we have already made false assumptions

Dining In

As the high tide of lockdown starts to ebb, we might look forward to entertaining, when sometimes we scratch our heads because we have to produce something vegetarian. This ticks a few boxes: vegetarian, healthy, full of flavours, a bit different and light enough for a summer lunch.



Mediterranean Stuffed Peppers

- 2 large peppers (capsicums), halved and deseeded (leave stalks on). 1 red and 1 yellow is ideal.
- 85g couscous
- 25g pine nuts, toasted
- Handful of black olives, roughly chopped
- 2 oz feta cheese, crumbled
- 2oz semi-dried tomatoes, snipped (or handful cherry tomatoes, quartered)
- 2 tbsp basil, shredded

1. Heat your oven to 200C/gas 6.
2. While doing that, microwave the peppers for 5 mins or until nearly soft, and place them on a baking tray, open side up
3. Put the couscous in a bowl, add 125ml (½ cup) boiling water, cover and leave 10 minutes
4. Fluff up the couscous then add all the other ingredients (except the peppers obvs)
5. Fill the peppers and bake in the oven for 10 minutes

(If you're not bothered about it being veggie, try it with bacon bits, chicken or anchovies for some extra flavour.)

A Job Advertisement

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Learning and Development Officer
(Eastern region)

Location: Home-based
Job Type: Full Time
Contract Type: 2 years Fixed-Term
Salary: £28,250-£35,312

If this job interests you, don't hang about. The closing date for applications is noon on 12 April and the interview date is 27 April. You can find out more at

<https://methodist.current-vacancies.com/Jobs/Advert/2086400>

Humour Corner



'...And is this an Essential Work Journey Sir?'

A Hymn for Easter

Keith Getty / Stuart Townend

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.



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 May 2021 issue should be emailed to andrewghyde@aol.com before Sunday 25 April. No email? Don't despair; just telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.

**Highlands Methodist Church
Hospitality in the Midst of our Community**

MINISTER: Pastor Steve Mayo Tel: 483827

**Easter Sunday Worship
4th April 2021**

He is risen Alleluia !



11.00 am Kathy McCullough

With full COVID precautions

**If you would like to attend this service
please contact 01702 — 479804**

 Highlands (Leigh) Methodist Church
www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk