



The **HIGHLANDER**


April 2023

The monthly newsletter of Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh on Sea

These are services for April 2023.

11:00 am Sun 2 nd	Morning Worship Palm Sunday – Café Church	Worship Leaders
7:00 pm Thu 6 th	Reflection Maundy Thursday Utd Service @ Highlands	Dani Mayo
11:00 am Fri 7 th	Morning Worship Good Friday Utd Service @ Wesley	Pastor Steve Mayo
11:00 am Sun 9 th	Morning Worship Easter Sunday Communion	Rev Pete Moorhouse
6:30 pm Sun 9 th	Circuit Service @ Belfairs	Rev Pete Moorhouse
7:00 pm Sun 9 th for 7:30	Gospel Service @ The Fishermen’s Chapel	Heather Simmons

Details of more services are on the next page.

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



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.

April 2023 [continued]

11:00 am Sun 16 th	Morning Worship Church Meeting follows	Pastor Steve Mayo
11:00 am Sun 23 rd	Morning Worship	Susie King
11:00 am Sun 30 th	Morning Worship United Service @ Belfairs	Rev Clifford Newman

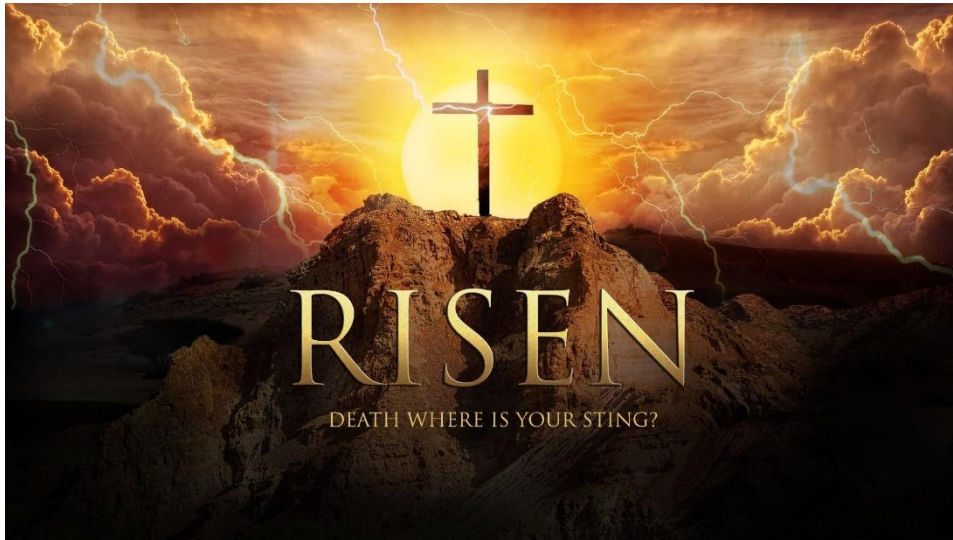
Details may change, so please check in advance if you are in any doubt.

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	Patrick Smith (minutes Secretary Margaret Wood)	557702 (557512)
Church Stewards	Andrew Hyde Donald Mayes Andreas Botzios (also Web Editor) Lesley Hyde	473111 473787 479476 473111
Worship Leaders	Jennifer Courtenay Frank Edmonds	556140 525250
Church Treasurer	Steve Watson	07543 905641
Children's Worker	Ros Bryant	478631
Pastoral Co-ordinator	Jean Edmonds	525250
Church Flowers	Jean Edmonds	525250
Lettings/Use of Premises	Jean Edmonds	525250

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!

I remember, a few years back in one of my previous churches, having an Easter egg hunt in the service for the children.



one. The service then continued.

Before the service, and before people arrived, some of the Sunday school teachers hid foil-wrapped chocolate eggs around the church. When it came to the part of the service where the children took part in the hunt, there was much fun and laughter as they found the eggs, one by

one. The service then continued.

Some 3 years or so later, the church was having a spring-clean and we used scaffolding to reach and dust the highest parts of the church to. Looking down at the church I noticed, quite high up, something shiny on top of one of the pillars. You've guessed it; it was an Easter

egg, never found during the hunt all those years before. Strangely though, nobody fancied eating it. But this made me think.

- ‡ How often have we been given the gift of Jesus at Easter and never unwrapped Him?
- ‡ How many Easter services have we attended and never tasted the glorious riches He has for each of us, because we've never unwrapped Him, or maybe never even found Him?

So, what is this gift?

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. [John 3:16-17 NIV]

The gift then, is eternal life. And unlike Easter eggs, the gift of Jesus never goes out of date or perishes; the gift of Jesus lasts forever.

May each one of us unwrap Jesus this Easter and fully experience His love and grace.

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

Humour Corner

Ancient Greek Tailor (to man who enters shop holding a pair of trousers):

Euripides?

Ancient Greek Customer:

Eumenides?



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

Our heartfelt sympathy to the friends and family of Jocelyn Greenway who has died at the age of 24. Jocelyn was a much-loved daughter to Alan and Gaye, brother to Ben and granddaughter to the late David Gare

...**also** to Vanessa Mayes on the loss of her brother David Holt

...**also** to Mark Faint, family and friends of Janice Faint who died suddenly on 24 March. Many will remember as an active Highlands member who shared her considerable crafting skills. Pat MacDermott who spoke to her on the telephone most days will miss her especially.

We ask your **thoughts and prayers** for those have been or still are unwell including Meriel Mallet, Marion Reid, Les Davis and Frank Edmonds

We continue to **pray for peace** in Ukraine – may all parties reach a fair and just conclusion which respects the rights and wishes of the people of that land.



Snippets

Hobbies

Thank you to all who attended and donated to our special Easter Coffee morning where all enjoyed a happy time and raised an impressive £150.48 for church funds.



Thank you to all the Hobbies group for the beautiful cards and gifts that were made for sale and for the lead given by Marjorie and Margaret.

We continue our meetings in April (20 only) when all are welcome from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon. We'll plan which of our many crafts we would like to do next. But you're welcome even if just to join our

company for a cuppa.

Jean Edmonds 525250

Christian Aid.

Turkey and Syria Earthquake Appeal are very grateful indeed for the generous donation of £340 which will have a real impact on our global neighbours. Partners are providing winter kits for people seeking shelter, which include plastic sheeting, mattresses, blankets and heating materials. Every prayer, every gift, and every action bring hope to people hit by disaster, helping them to rebuild their lives. We truly cannot thank you enough.



New Member

We are delighted to welcome Julia Nielson into membership of Highlands.

Annual Church Meeting

The 2023 ACM will be take place on Sunday 16 April at Highlands, following Morning Worship on that day. All members are welcome.



Recharge | Refresh Circuit Day

Following the success of this event last year, a new Circuit Quiet Day is planned on Saturday 3 June 2023 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Refreshments will be available all day but bring your own unch. The theme of the day is to be announced

Coronation Weekend – 6/7 May

We propose to open the church on Saturday 6 May to anyone who wishes to watch on our TV while enjoying coffee.

Sunday 7 May is café church with Frank and Jenny and there will be a lunch afterwards. Pastor Steve is preaching at Horndon-on-the Hill but will be back for 12.30.



There will be no Tuesday lunch club on 9 May, but we hope that many 'lunch club' members will take part in the service and join us for lunch, catered by our Jackie Carter and team. There will be no

charge for the lunch but a request for a donation. Please add your name to the list in the Jubilee room.

Wesley Methodist Church

WMC are also having a lunch on the Sunday to celebrate King Charles' Coronation. To attend that event, please sign up at Wesley. The cost is £8.00 per person or £20.00 for a family. For more information, please contact June Childs.

Wesley Theatre Group

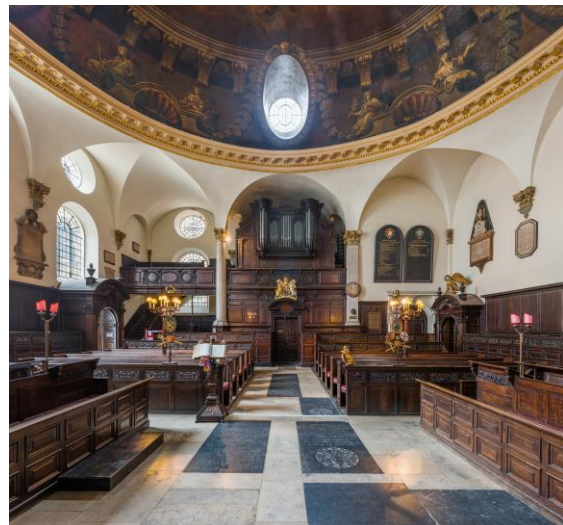
Due to unforeseen circumstances WTG are postponing their production of *Chase Me Up Farndale Avenue S'il Vous Plaît* that was scheduled for 21/22 April.

Movie

On Sat 8 April at 2:30 pm Rayleigh MC will be showing *The Passion of the Christ* (18) a very graphic depiction of the last 12 hours of Jesus's life on earth. Free to all.

Organ Recital

On 23 May at 12:30 pm our organist Tim Francis gives a recital at St Mary Abchurch, London, a short walk from Fenchurch St station. Apart from the recital, it's a great opportunity to visit this small City church. It has twice been restored; once after the Great Fire of 1666, by Sir Christopher Wren. Also following WW2 damage, a restoration that included the painted dome, organ and a Grinling Gibbons carved altar-piece.



Save the Dates

These more distant dates will have details here next month. Meanwhile put them in your diary (with details to follow):

Sat 17 June	Fundraising Evening – Brass Band and Singer if available
Sun 18 June	Fathers' Day – uniformed organisations
Tue 15 Aug	Community Day - Brass Band and cream teas
Sun 27 Aug	Steve Farewell Service
Sun 3 Sep	Heather Welcome Service

Puzzle of the Month¹

Due to a sudden shortage of upper-case vowels, I have had to write down six well-known proverbs or sayings just using consonants. Can you reconstruct the six proverbs?

Oh, just to add a degree of difficulty, I have broken them up differently to how they are written, and some of them are backwards. So GDL CK (or KC LDG) would mean GOOD LUCK.

1. BRD SFF THR FLC KTG THR
2. NNS VS MTN HCT TS
3. M NYH ND SM KLG HTW RK
4. RD NFW RGTR H HTS KMC NSB
5. SR GHT S TGLH WY KQ SHT
6. F LND HSM NY RSNP RTD

¹ Solution page 18

Notes from a Member

Such a Broad Church



Clive Johnson

Like many, I've been privileged once in a while to drop in on the worship of different churches in different places. Methodist gatherings are always a joy to take part in, although they don't always take the form that might be more familiar at Highlands.

Visiting various congregations during travels to the US, for example, I've at times felt like walking into an arena, with high-tech audio-visuals, very impressive youth bands, and highly organised stewarding to greet the 1,000+ crowd or more who fill their giant halls.

Yet, I hadn't to date visited a Methodist Church that does Gospel quite the way they do it at the Free Methodist Church Kicukiro in Kigali, Rwanda.



I was visiting Rwanda back in February to help roll out activities in children's libraries about working together using the labyrinth, along with running a couple of workshops on the theme of interfaith dialogue for adults, involving folks from different faith traditions.

My visit to Rwanda coincided with World Interfaith Harmony Week, in which I was graciously welcomed to the church to celebrate a combined gathering of faith communities in Kigali hosted by them.

Several hundred people, representing at least ten different faith communities, were present. The Methodist choir wasn't the only one to lead the music worship – several other choirs helped move us in a very beautiful and often very lively way. The sermon was delivered in a fiery but sincere style by an Anglican preacher, and a further

message on interfaith partnering was offered by the mayor of the district, herself a practising Muslim.



The Gospel style may not be everyone's cup of tea. But for me, I love to experience variety. As the choirs in Kicukiro might say, "SING HALLELUJAH!"

Gospel at the Fishermen's Chapel

If Clive's experience has whetted your appetite for Gospel music (or you are already a fan) then the monthly Gospel vespers at the Fishermen's Chapel, New Road might be your cup of tea.

The event takes place at 7:30 (but be there at 7 for refreshments) on the second Sunday of the month. So, the next one will be on Easter Sunday 9 April. See you there. Ed.



PS – if a lift would help, please get in touch with me or any steward.

From the Editor

A TV programme I watch and enjoy is the BBC's *Saving Lives at Sea*. Running now for about 6 years, it follows the exploits of the Royal National Lifeboat Institute ('RNLI'). The 444 lifeboats are operated by about 32,000 volunteers (men and women) at 238 lifeboat stations around Great Britain, Ireland and the smaller British Isles. Including of course the Southend RNLI station and five others in Essex. There are also about 80 independent lifeboat stations (such as the one at Freshwater Bay IoW) dotted around Britain and Ireland.



The format of the programme is to show actual rescues that are recorded on volunteers' body cameras, and to interview both the volunteers and the people whom they help. A recurring theme is that the rescuers never judge the people they rescue, who are often grateful for that profound kindness. Whether you are unlucky, or reckless, or incompetent or just plain stupid, it doesn't matter; the RNLI volunteers are there to help you, and they are very happy to do it. They are also guided by international treaties (such as SOLAS²) which require any ship to give assistance to preserve life, regardless of nationality or state of war.

The founder of RNLI, Sir William Hillary was from a Yorkshire Quaker family. Although he later moved away from the faith, the non-judgemental tradition of the RNLI that he established has a clear resonance with Christian principles:

² International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea

Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. [Matthew 7:1 UKNIV]

Against this humanitarian background I was disappointed to learn that lifeboat crews returning to their station on the south coast after rescuing migrants have been subject to verbal abuse from residents³. One political leader who should know better opined that the RNLI were operating a 'taxi service for illegal immigration'. This is surely undeserved and reflects shame only on the abusers.

However, on the plus side, the RNLI reported that they were inundated with donations and messages of support, with online donations rising by 50% in 2021⁴. When it comes to the crunch, British people, it seems, are fundamentally decent.

Jayne George, the RNLI's fundraising director, commented:
Our core purpose is humanitarian – we exist to save everyone.

...which is rather similar to the purpose of the Methodist Church.



Poem of the Month

Sometimes the Poem of the Month more or less selects itself. For example *The Hill We Climb* by Amanda Gorman, read by the author at Biden's inauguration in January 2021.

Salford-born John Cooper Clark (1949 -) AKA the 'Punk Poet' wrote the poem below in 1982. Set to music by the Arctic Monkeys, it has recently found a new audience on TikTok and achieved a billion streams on Spotify. If any terms in the foregoing paragraph are unfamiliar to you, do seek advice from a grandchild.

³ The Independent 28 Jul 2021

⁴ The Observer 2 Jan 2022

It is a love poem that needs be read aloud to an audience, if only to illustrate how 'cleaner' and 'Cortina' can be rhymed...

I WANNA BE YOURS

John Cooper Clark

I wanna be your vacuum cleaner
Breathing in your dust
I wanna be your Ford Cortina
I will never rust
If you like your coffee hot
Let me be your coffee pot
You call the shots
I wanna be yours.

I wanna be your raincoat
For those frequent rainy days
I wanna be your dreamboat
When you want to sail away
Let me be your teddy bear
Take me with you anywhere
I don't care
I wanna be yours.

I wanna be your electric meter
I will not run out
I wanna be the electric heater
You'll get cold without
I wanna be your setting lotion
Hold your hair in deep devotion
Deep as the deep Atlantic ocean
That's how deep is my devotion.

Humour Corner

What happens when a dolphin dies penniless?
He gets a porpoise funeral...

Dining In (Kosher)

I thought it would be interesting at this time of year to think about the Jewish festival of Passover which starts this year on the evening of 5 April and runs until Thursday 13 April. And in particular, to look at the food eaten, or not eaten, at this time.

Passover commemorates the departure from slavery into Egypt which happened in such a hurry that there wasn't time to wait for their bread to leaven (which I think is basically the same as 'proving').

The story is told in Exodus (as well as Numbers and Deuteronomy). Only unleavened bread was eaten during their entire journey, so all grains are off limit during Passover. The only wheat-based food eaten is matzo, special crackers made and baked within 18 minutes, so they do not have time to leaven.



Ashkenazi Jews also have to avoid rice, beans, seeds and some legumes which makes mealtimes even trickier.

Before Passover begins, it's traditional to give your entire kitchen a good clean to ensure it's free of all banned foods. The first meal is normally a special one with friends and family, called a Seder. This is eaten on the night before Passover starts. There's a tremendous amount of ritual and symbolism in this meal which includes a roasted egg and spring herbs, signifying renewal; a paste of apple, nuts and wine representing the mortar on the pyramids that the slaves were forced to build. There is salt water to represent the tears and bitter herbs for enslavement. There can be many more courses including roasted lamb and the whole meal can go on for hours with much storytelling.

So, if you are marking Passover, you're going to be eating a lot of meat, eggs, fruit, potatoes and other vegetables but no breakfast cereals, pizza or pasta unless they're made without wheat and marked 'kosher for Passover'.

We tried a fruit crumble last weekend, gluten -free and so perfect for Passover. It tasted good too. Enough for 6 good portions.

Rhubarb, Strawberry and Cinnamon Nut Crumble.

Ingredients:

- 1kg rhubarb, in small chunks
- 300g frozen strawberries, thawed
- Tablespoon of strawberry jam



Topping

- 125g butter, in small cubes
 - 100g demerara sugar
 - 200g ground almonds
 - 1 tsp ground cinnamon
 - 75g flaked almonds
 - 50g pistachios or hazelnuts, roughly chopped
- Cook rhubarb gently in saucepan until tender (about 15 mins) and there's no liquid. Stir in strawberries and strawberry jam. Add a bit more jam if you want more sweetness.
 - Tip fruit in shallow ovenproof dish. Heat oven to 190°C (170°C fan).
 - Make topping by blitzing butter, sugar, ground almonds and cinnamon in food processor until it starts to clump together. (Don't let it go past the clump stage or you'll end up with a paste!). Tip into a bowl, stir in chopped nuts and then sprinkle over fruit in the ovenproof dish.
 - Bake for 45 mins until golden and crisp, let stand for 10 mins before serving. It's excellent with cream, custard or ice cream.

A Grand Day Out

For bird-lovers, estuary viewers or folk who just like a walk in the open air without climbing Kilimanjaro (and then a cup of coffee) I recommend the recently opened Thurrock Thameside Nature Park (TTNP)

Just as a selection, you might see owls, kingfishers, skylarks, avocets, plovers, water voles, hares, seals, harbour seal, adders and various butterflies, moths and carder bees. Not all in the same place, of course, and depending on the season. There are 2 miles of well-made footpaths of lengths that will suit everyone,



TTNP has a visitor centre and shop, with drinks, and a rooftop viewing area with wide vistas over the River Thames, Stanford Wharf RSPB reserve and the (slightly less pleasing) London Gateway Container Port. The container port is the

same huge installation, with quay cranes 138m (450 ft) tall, that you can see from Leigh.

These are two final features of TTNP that are worthy of mention

1. it is just 30-40 minutes away by car (SS17 0RN) in normal traffic
2. it sits on 845 acres of what was until 2010 the largest landfill site in Europe – the charmingly named Mucking Flats.

The project has been financed by Cory Environmental. It's easy to be cynical about the involvement of a huge company such as Cory, but we might reflect that each of us must at some time have thrown something away that has ended up buried at Mucking...

Puzzle of the Month Solution

Here are the answers, with the missing vowels shown in **bold**:

1. Birds of **a** feather flock together.
2. **A** stitch in time saves nine.
3. Many hands make **l**ight work.
4. **A**bsence makes the heart grow fonder.
5. The **s**queaky wheel gets the **g**rease.
6. **A** fool and his money are soon parted.



SERVING the COMMUNITY 7 Days a Week

Children and Young People

Group	Time	Contact
Scouts	Thu 7:30 to 9:00 pm	Carl Mason 07814 226133
Cubs	Thu 5:45 to 7:15 pm	Lesley Bacon 07947 116891
Rainbows	Wed 4:00 to 5:00 pm	Julie Griffiths 07834 321724
Brownies	Wed 5:30 to 7:00 pm	Dilys Haddow 710207
Guides	Fri 7:00 to 9:00 pm	Jacqui Hendle 07961 545037
Rangers	Thu ⁵ 7:00 to 9:00 pm	Jacqui Hendle 07961 545037
Toddlers	Mon 9:30 am to 11:30	Ros: 478631 Margaret: 557512

Fellowship Groups

Group	Time	Contact
Prayer ⁶	Tue 9:00 to 10:00 am	Andrew Hyde 473111
Chatter	Tue 10:00 am to 12:00 noon	Rosalind 478631

Services to the Community

Group	Time	Contact
Lunch Club	2 nd Tuesday 12:00	Registration essential


Social and Recreational

Group	Time	Contact
Hobbies	1 st /3 rd Thu 10:00 am to noon	Jean 525250

⁵ Every fortnight

⁶ on Zoom

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 2023 issue should be emailed to
andrewghyde@aol.com before the **deadline of Sunday 22 April**,
and earlier if possible. No email? Don't despair; just telephone
473111 to arrange an alternative.

A Final Image

The lifeboat station at Bembridge (my childhood home⁷)



⁷ The village not the lifeboat station