



# The **HIGHLANDER**



## **December 2022/January 2023**


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

#### **December 2022**

11:00 am Sun 4 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship Advent 2 - Café Church Toy & Gift Service	Worship Leaders
11:00 am Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship Advent 3 – <b>US at Wesley</b> Nativity	Pastor Steve Mayo
4:00 pm Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	Carol Service Advent 4	Pastor Steve Mayo
5:00 pm Sat 24 <sup>th</sup>	Crib Service	Worship Leaders
11:15 pm Sat 24 <sup>th</sup>	Midnight Mass <b>at Wesley</b>	Rev Norman Hooks
10:45 am Sun 25 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Worship	Pastor Steve Mayo

Services above are all live. You do not need to wear a mask but please feel free do so if your doctor advises.



 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.

## January 2023

11:00 am Sun 1 <sup>st</sup>	Morning Worship <b>US at Wesley</b>	Pastor Steve Mayo
11:00 am Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship	Sue Hockett
11:00 am Sun 15 <sup>h</sup>	Morning Worship Communion	Bob Briant
11:00 am Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Morning Worship	Dani Mayo
11:00 am Sun 28 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship <b>US at Highlands</b>	Pastor Steve Mayo

This is a two-month issue of *Highlander* for the reason that it is very difficult to achieve editing, production and distribution between Christmas and New Year. Any urgent notices can be posted (by anyone) on the Facebook page.

Confirming the information above and overleaf, there will be **no morning service at Highlands on these Sundays**

- 11 December (but there is a united nativity service at Wesley)
- 18 December (but there is a Carol Service here at 4:00 pm)
- 1 January 2023 (but there is a united service at Wesley)

If you need transport to the services at Wesley<sup>1</sup> **please ask any steward**, and it will happen

Please note, if attending the 11 December united nativity service at Wesley, there will be a **collection of food bank donations** – tinned and long life food. There is no pressure for Highlands visitors to join in, but I know that some of you will want to do so.

The **Christmas morning** service on Sunday 25 December is at the slightly earlier time of 10:45 am.

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<sup>1</sup> Or any other service for that matter

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

All telephone numbers are '01702' unless stated

Minister	Pastor Steve Mayo <a href="mailto:pastorstevemayo@gmail.com">pastorstevemayo@gmail.com</a>	483827
Secretary to Church Council	Margaret Wood	714528
Church Stewards	Andrew Hyde Donald Mayes Andreas Botzios (also Web Editor) Lesley Hyde	473111 473787 473111
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Church Treasurer	Steve Watson	
Property Co-ordinator (until 31/12)	Anne Lane <a href="mailto:annelane8@btinternet.com">annelane8@btinternet.com</a>	01268 755291
Children's Workers	Jean Edmonds Ros Bryant	525250 478631
Pastoral Co-ordinator	Jean Edmonds	525250
Church Flowers	Jean Edmonds	525250
Lettings/Use of Premises	Jean Edmonds Ros Bryant	525250 478631

## 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. But it is worth having a much closer look at the wonder of God coming to earth as a baby.

Think of any photos you may have around your house of babies; 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; languageless; everything is ‘new’; inability to move where you want to; nappies, teething etc. 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 also 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.

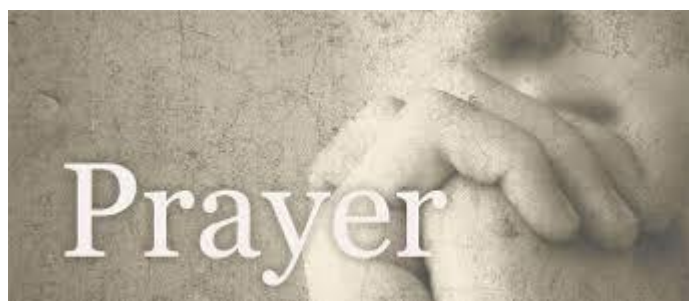
And what a challenge for us as Christians!

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  
01702 483827  
[pastorstevemayo@gmail.com](mailto:pastorstevemayo@gmail.com)





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

We send our **condolences** to the family and friends of Stella and Keith Carter<sup>2</sup>. Both had been unwell and in hospital for some time. Stella had her funeral on 22 November, having died earlier that month. Keith was too unwell to attend, and indeed he too died peacefully at Brooklands, Eastwood just a few hours after the ceremony. Keith's funeral is at Highlands at 1:00 pm on Monday 12 December followed by a wake in the hall. All are welcome.

Our **condolences** also to Irene, her family and friends of Tony Downing<sup>3</sup> who has also died. When you read this, Tony's funeral will have taken place on 29 November at Southend Crematorium, but we hope that a memorial service can be scheduled in the springtime. For anyone wishing to mark Tony's promotion to glory with a gift, the family request donations to All We Can.

We **pray** for swift recoveries to Sylvia Cornwell and Maureen Kelly who have both undergone routine medical procedures.

We **give thanks** for the return of Andrew and Pauline Saville to their customary places on Sunday morning. Andrew's recovery from his stroke has been phenomenal. Although it is a gradual process, every time I see him, I notice a small but unmistakable improvement.

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2, 3 More about Stella, Keith and Tony on page 14

## From the Editor

When it comes to writing about what's in the news now, there is no shortage of subjects, and plenty of opportunity to contrast good with bad.



We have Christmas approaching (thumbs up 👍), but there's still a war going on in Ukraine (thumbs down 👎). As we wave goodbye to COVID (👍), an economic crisis comes into view (👎). A baby giraffe named Wilfred is born at Whipsnade Zoo (👍); climate change crisis (👎).

I have studiously avoided the subject of 22 men kicking a pig's bladder round a patch of grass in Qatar. The reason for this is simple – I can't really decide if it's a 👍 or a 👎. Most of the issues – human rights, migrant workers, corruption in FIFA, domination by global business interests – are matters of opinion.

There is one exception to this. Money. Money of course is fact. The total cost of building World Cup stadia and infrastructure (hotels, transport, security etc) is estimated in excess of £200 billion. The average price of a ticket for one seat at one game is over £250. The players are typically earning (or could earn) over ££50,000 per week.

At the same time the UNICEF appeal relating to the worst drought in 40 years in Somalia (about 1,500 km south-southeast of Qatar) informs us that:

- £32 could provide vitamin sprinkles for 4 toddlers for a year



- £40 could provide life-saving food to cure a child from malnutrition
- £62 could provide life-saving oral rehydration salts to help at least 200 children

Let me do the sums for you. The 2022 FIFA World Cup could have been cancelled, saving as many as 2 billion lives. Fair enough, that's purely mathematical – there are probably not that many children starving in the world. But the point is clear. Our world does have the means. The question of course is whether we have the will.



There are some arguments against giving to worldwide disaster relief. Some might say:

*Why can't people with more money than me give some of it to charity? I can't afford it as they can.*

Essentially this is the 'World Cup' argument again. Jesus witnessed this event:

*A poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few pence. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you; this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything – all she had to live on.'* [Mark 12: 42-44 NIVUK]



Will it make any difference? Jesus famously said:

*The poor you will always have with you* [Mark 14: 7 NIVUK]

But Mark's Gospel continues:

*...and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me.*





Finally, there is the often-quoted 'charity begins at home' argument. This maintains that we should fastidiously help those in need within our own family or country before we think about giving help to anyone else. This is surely a misinterpretation. We certainly owe compassion and generosity in our relationships with those around us, but

we must also extend that compassion and generosity to the rest of the world.

God does not recognise man-made borders. We are all his children, wherever we come from, wherever we live and wherever we're going. When He sent his only Son to be born in a Bethlehem stable, the angels bore this famous message:



*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men [Luke 2:14 KJV]*

I think that 'men' in this message means 'all people'. A very Happy Christmas to all, and a peaceful 2023.

Anne



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



This is quite tricky but it's one you can do over Christmas.

Because of a growing workload Santa has had to retire all his reindeer! They are now enjoying a life of luxury in Lapland. To replace them, he has rounded up 10 reindeer and given them all names that mean 'not very serious' Unfortunately he has forgotten which reindeer has which name, and the

reindeer (who are quite young and rather mischievous) are refusing to tell him. Can you help by using these clues, and a list of names that Santa kept in his pocket? You'll need a separate piece of paper!

R/deer	Clue	Names
<b>1</b>	Has an even number of letters	FLIPPANT
<b>2</b>	Does not end with the letter 'L'	TRIVIAL
<b>3</b>	Comes after Reindeer 7 alphabetically	SUPERFICIAL
<b>4</b>	Comes immediately before Reindeer 10 alphabetically	INSINCERE
<b>5</b>	All the letters in this word are different	FUNNY
<b>6</b>	Has more letters than Reindeer 7	JOYFUL
<b>7</b>	Has the same number of letters as Reindeer 3	LIGHT
<b>8</b>	Begins with 'In'	MINOR
<b>9</b>	Starts with the same letter as Reindeer 6	CHEERY
<b>10</b>	"I cannot be serious!"	INCONSEQUENTIAL

<sup>4</sup> Solution page 16

## **Snippets**

### **The Heat Is On**

The new boilers and their control system are installed and running. The are controllers in the Sanctuary and the Hall, with the master in Room 1. You need a key to get into these, and Patrick Smith and Andrew Hyde hold them.



Because of their size, some rooms will take longer than others to warm up, especially if the weather turns wintry. If you find that the room you are using is too cold, move into a smaller room if you can. The lounge is always likely to be the warmest, because it does not have an outside wall.

PLEASE DO NOT try to access the controllers without the key, or fiddle with the radiators.

### **Highlands Lunch Club**

JP writes: Highlands will have received £9,000 over 2021/2022 from Essex Community Foundation.

When you read the report I wrote at the beginning of 2022, you will see that with this considerable help, we have made amazing inroads to reduce isolation amongst the older folk in Highlands local community. This extra support just received was always intended to support the increased energy costs that are an already with us.

We have a strong team of volunteers that make Highlands Methodist Church Lunch Club happen and I would like to say thank you to Jacky, David, Sharon, Pastor Steve and Chas.

## **Highlands Christmas Mail**

The Highlands Mail service is now operating. Please post your cards in the box in the Jubilee room (in the correct pigeonhole please) before the carol service if you can. Cards left after that tend to be uncollected

## **Highlands Hobbies**

At our next meeting on 1 December, we plan to be preparing lovely Christmas cards, tree decorations and small gifts for our forthcoming Christmas coffee morning. We do hope to see a good crowd on Saturday 3 December 10:00 am until 1:00 pm. The Christmas tree will be up and Father Christmas plans to visit. We will be holding a little Christmas party on the morning of 15 December with light refreshments.

In the New Year we hope more people will join us, if only to keep warm or do some knitting. We will put our heads together to make a plan of crafts we enjoy.

All are welcome on 5 and 19 January in room 1 from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon.

Jean Edmonds 525250

## **Serving the Homeless**

The Wine tasting evening arranged by Pipe of Port was well received and raised over £760. Meanwhile, the Christmas raffle is in full swing with your opportunity to win a superb hamper. Tickets available. The draw is scheduled to take place on 5 December.

On Friday 16 December we are planning our annual Carol Service at Our Lady of Lourdes with traditional carols, music and verse, to which you are all invited.

We then kick off the New Year with our regular Sunday Lunch at Chalkwell Park Rooms on 29 January 2023. Make a note in the

diary and be ready when the tickets are available.

We continue to support HARP, recently with a donation of £500 to purchase Christmas turkeys to provide a Christmas lunch for all their residents. These now number over 200 with a further 50 rooms to become available soon at the Bluebird project.

Our support for YMCA also continues with an additional contribution of £2000 towards the new facility in Shoebury.

Thank you all for your prayers and support during these difficult times. Homelessness is a very serious problem in the current economic climate.

Frank

### **Highlands Toddlers**

Following our 'Pudsey Bear' theme on 14 November, we were pleased to donate the sum of £150 to BBC Children in Need.

Our thanks to those who supported.

Ros and Margaret

### **Carol Concert in Aid of HARP**

Southend Bach Choir will be giving a Carol Concert at St Andrew's Westcliff on Saturday 17 December at 7:00 pm. Admission is free but donations to HARP will be collected. Info from 01268 772842

### **Church flowers for December/January**

- ✿ 4 December donated by Frank and Jean Edmonds in memory of family and friends.
- ✿ 18 December donated by Jenny Courtenay in memory of her parents.
- ✿ 8 January donated by Jill Grove in memory of her parents.
- ✿ 29 January donated by Joan Ford in memory of Gordon.

## **Events at Wesley**

Wesley Theatre Group will be presenting 'Missing Miss Christmas' (by Geoff Fulford) on Fri 2 Dec at 7:30 pm and Sat 3 Dec at 4:30 pm. Tickets £6.50 or less from 01702 480968. Hilarity is guaranteed.

## **Can Ewe Help?**

Last Christmas we were unable to find 'Highlands Knitted Nativity Set'. This was especially made for us by a regular visitor to this church. Also missing a bag of knitted sheep; they seem to have wandered off to pastures unknown. But maybe you know where they are hiding, or maybe they were borrowed and just need to be returned. If you can help us please speak to a Steward in time for Christmas 2022.

## **Save the Date**

The next Circuit Service is on Sunday 5 February 2023 at Belfairs Methodist Church, to be led by Anna Turner. All are welcome to come and be inspired by the amazing work Anna has been doing in the Middle East.

## **Stella, Keith and Tony – Promoted to Glory**

Keith and Stella Carter were part of the youth of the church when we came to Leigh in 1950. They were the last couple to be married in what is now the church hall, just before the present church opened in 1956.

Stella was kept busy caring for the family, but she also took part in the Highlands Club, played badminton and later was part of the Whitehall Bowls Club. She and Keith ran our indoor bowls in the church hall on a Friday afternoon.

In the 1980s, Keith became a church steward. He had a great deal

to do with the Badminton Players drama group and took part in many church events and bazaars.

We shall miss them both – none more so than Janice and Ian and all the family to whom we offer out sincere sympathy.

On one Remembrance Sunday, Irene and Tony Downing wanted to take part in a church service. Thus by a happy accident they found us. Quite soon they became part of our church family. Not only that, they became friends to all as well.

They belonged to the house group. Irene took part in 'knit & natter' and both were willing helpers on various occasions.

We will sadly miss Tony in our church family and our sincere condolences go to Irene, their daughters Yvonne, Angela and Gillian, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

RB

## **Humour Corner**

In the infant class, Miss Jones has asked all the children to do a picture of the Christmas story...

Miss Jones

*Abigail, that's lovely. Joseph leading Mary on a donkey, and she's holding baby Jesus. But what is the big, black hairy thing right behind them?*

Abigail

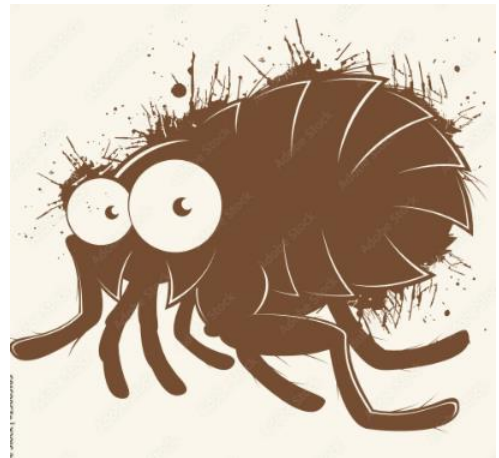
*That's the flea, Miss.*

Miss Jones

*The FLEA? I don't think there're any fleas in the Christmas story, Abigail.*

Abigail

*Yes, there is, Miss! An angel came to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother and flea to Egypt...'*



## Puzzle of the Month Solution

Reindeer		Names
<b>1</b>	Has an even number of letters	CHEERY
<b>2</b>	Does not end with the letter 'L'	INSINCERE
<b>3</b>	Comes after Reindeer 7 alphabetically	MINOR
<b>4</b>	Comes immediately before Reindeer 10 alphabetically	SUPERFICIAL
<b>5</b>	All the letters in this word are different	JOYFUL
<b>6</b>	Has more letters than Reindeer 7	FLIPPANT
<b>7</b>	Has the same number of letters as Reindeer 3	LIGHT
<b>8</b>	Begins with 'In'	INCONSEQUENTIAL
<b>9</b>	Starts with the same letter as Reindeer 6	FUNNY
<b>10</b>	"I cannot be serious!"	TRIVIAL

## Humour Corner





## **Poem of the Month**



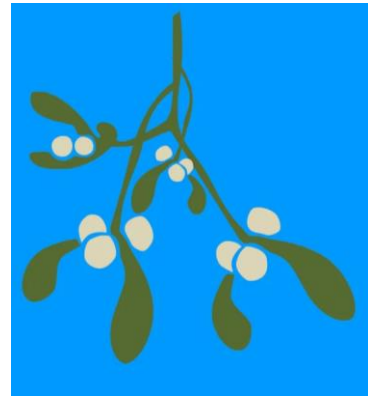
This month's poem has a festive theme. It's also quite mysterious and romantic. The writer, Walter de la Mare (1873-1956), despite his colourful surname, was English, born the son of a banker in Kent. As well as poems he wrote short stories, novels (often with a horror theme) and stories for children.

### **Mistletoe**

Walter de la Mare

Sitting under the mistletoe  
(Pale-green, fairy mistletoe),  
One last candle burning low,  
All the sleepy dancers gone,  
Just one candle burning on,  
Shadows lurking everywhere:  
Someone came, and kissed me there.

Tired I was; my head would go  
Nodding under the mistletoe  
(Pale-green, fairy mistletoe),  
No footsteps came, no voice, but only,  
Just as I sat there, sleepy, lonely,  
Stooped in the still and shadowy air  
Lips unseen—and kissed me there.



### **Humour Corner**

Customer in clothes shop:  
*Can I try on the red dress in your window please?*

Assistant:  
*I'm sorry madam you'll have to use the changing room like everyone else*

## Dining In Christmas Biscuits

Here's a nice idea for a little present for someone. If young, it will keep them occupied for an hour or so (perhaps supervised), provide a treat, and may get them interested in cooking. The idea is to provide all the ingredients (except 1 egg, 150g of butter and 1 tsp vanilla extract) and simple instructions in a 1-litre jar.



### Ingredients

- ❖ 125g wholemeal flour<sup>5</sup>
- ❖ 1 tsp baking powder
- ❖ 120g dried cranberries
- ❖ 150g rolled oats
- ❖ 1 heaped tsp cinnamon
- ❖ 145g soft brown sugar
- ❖ A pinch flaky sea salt
- ❖ 170g large white chocolate chunks
- ❖ 1 heaped tbsp malted milk powder (eg Horlicks)

Method: Layer the ingredients carefully in the jar. 1<sup>st</sup> the flour mixed with the baking powder. 2<sup>nd</sup> cranberries. 3<sup>rd</sup> rolled oats and cinnamon. 4<sup>th</sup> sugar mixed with salt. 5<sup>th</sup> chocolate chunks.

Now add this written instruction:

1. Butter 2 baking sheets and preheat oven to 180<sup>c</sup>/160<sup>c</sup> fan/Gas 6
2. Whisk together 1 egg, 150g of butter and 1 tsp vanilla extract in a bowl for 5 mins until smooth and creamy
3. Stir in the contents of the jar and mix to form dough
4. Put 12 golf-ball size blobs of the mixture onto each baking sheet and bake for 11 mins.
5. Leave on sheets to cool and eat while still warm

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<sup>5</sup> For a smoother result, use ordinary plain flour



## **Jobs for the Garden**

### **From our Special Gardening Correspondent**

I think we can say that the drought is over for now. The garden is now full of fallen leaves. If they are on the flower beds, you can leave them to provide natural insulation. If they are on paths, making them slippery, they should of course be swept to one side. Or, even better, they can be gathered and composted into leaf mould that will be an excellent mulch or compost after a few months.

For a Christmas treat, there are still some tickets for the 'Glow' event at RHS Garden Hyde Hall. This takes place in the evenings until 30 Dec, and is unbeatable for breathtaking beauty and spectacular displays. For more details go to:

[www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/hyde-hall/whats-on/hyde-hall-glow](http://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/hyde-hall/whats-on/hyde-hall-glow)

**A very healthy and joyful 2023**

**to all readers of**

*The* **Highlander**

**your friends, neighbours and relatives,  
young, old and somewhere in between**

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

### **Children and Young People**


### **Fellowship Groups**

### **Services to the Community**

### **Social and Recreational**

For a full list of these groups, check last month's issue if you still have it. Otherwise, go to [www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk/monthly-magazine/](http://www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk/monthly-magazine/) and follow the [Download November 2022 Edition](#) link.

For updated news keep following

 Highlands (Leigh) Methodist Church and of course [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk) is an excellent source of information and inspiration.

Items for the February 2023 issue should be emailed to [andrewghyde@aol.com](mailto:andrewghyde@aol.com) before the **deadline of Sunday 22** January, and earlier if possible. No email? Don't despair; just telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.

