



The **HIGHLANDER**

July/August 2023

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

These are services for July 2023.


11:00 am Sun 2 nd	Morning Worship Café Church	Worship Leaders
11:00 am Sun 9 th	Morning Worship Action for Children	Pamela Smith
7:00 pm Sun 9 th	Gospel Service @ The Fishermen's Chapel	Rev Pete Moorhouse
11:00 am Sun 16 th	Morning Worship Communion	Pastor Colin Turner
11:00 am Sun 23 rd	Morning Worship	Sanya Strachan
11:00 am Sun 30 th	Morning Worship United Service @ Belfairs	Rev Clifford Newman

These are services for August 2023.

11:00 am Sun 6 th	Morning Worship Café Church	Worship Leaders
11:00 am Sun 13 th	Morning Worship Communion	Bob Briant
7:00 pm Sun 13 th	Gospel Service @ The Fishermen's Chapel	Rev Pete Moorhouse
11:00 am Sun 20 th	Morning Worship United Service @ Wesley	Eileen Simmons
11:00 am Sun 27 th	Morning Worship	Pastor Steve Mayo

The service on Sunday 27 August will be the last for a while at least for which Steve leads us at Highlands, as he moves across to lead Wesley and Belfairs.

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

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



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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)
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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

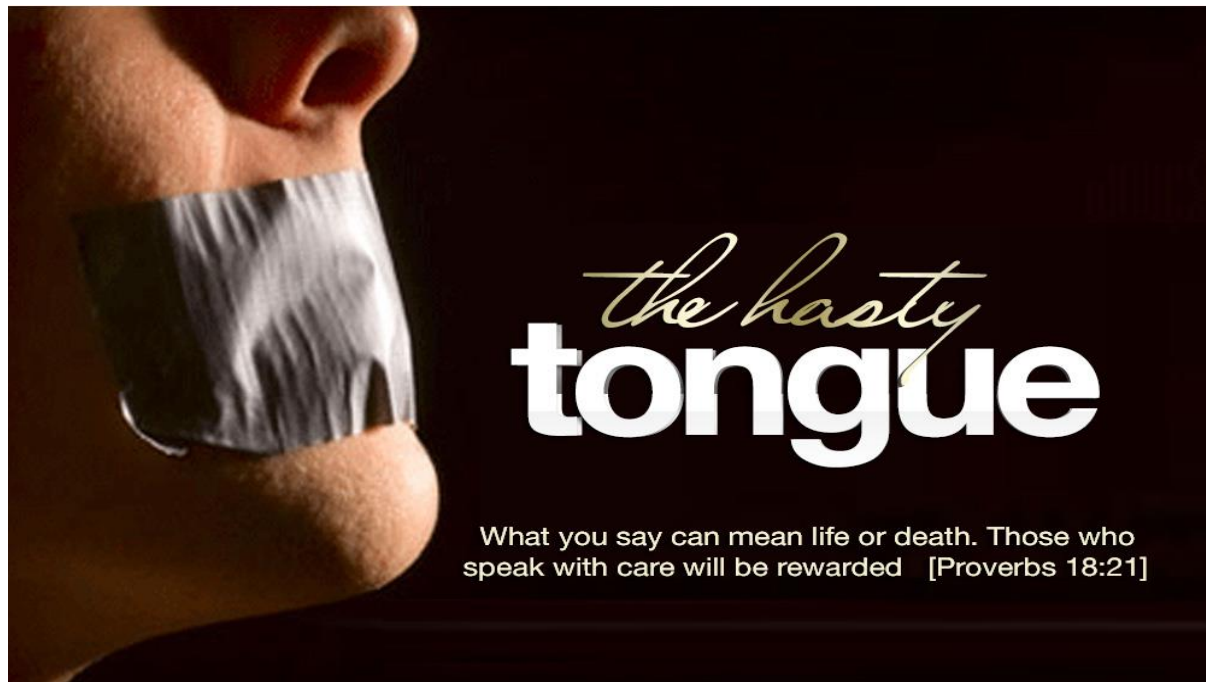
Humour Corner

Husband: *I just told the minister that I'm fed up with life, and he told me it could be worse – I could be in a deep hole full of water*

Wife: *I'm sure he means well*



From Your Minister



I have been reminded recently about the power of the tongue.

James says in his letter:

When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder, wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. [James 3:3-6 NIVUK]

Our tongues can cause a huge amount of damage, not only to those with whom we come into contact, but also to the wider church. Small negative, derogative comments can cause huge pain and division,

even though the tongue is one of the smallest parts of the body. James refers to the tongue as a ship's rudder or a horse's bit, able to affect a much larger object.

This portion of scripture is usually used to warn us about the damage our tongues can have when we use them unwisely. But what if we were to flip the coin, so to speak, and consider the massive amount of good that can also be achieved with the tongue.



Passing on positivity to others not only benefits them, but also gives us a sense of fulfilment and well-being.

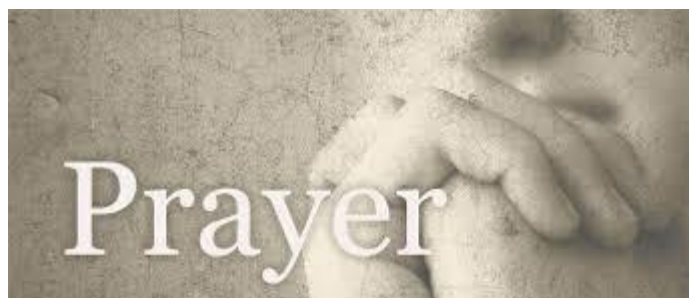
Stopping for a moment when we are about to respond to someone, and considering the consequences, may enable us to build others, and the church, up, rather than demolishing them!

"Pick your words carefully as [doing so] has the power to make the sentence beautiful or ugly..." [Adil Adam Memon]

May God give each of us the wisdom and strength to control our tongues when necessary.

Every blessing,

Pastor Steve
01702 483827
pastorstevemayo@gmail.com



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*. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families.

Our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of John Houlding. More about John on page XX

Our **congratulations** go to Frank and Jean Edmonds who are, as I write this, celebrating 57 years of marriage with a few days at Gt Malvern. They were practitioners of 'Bazball' long before the England cricket team, and they are still regularly hitting the ball out of the ground, with no sign of a declaration any time soon.



Snippets

Leigh Floral Group at Highlands

Leigh Floral is back in full swing, meeting at Highlands on the last Friday of each month at 7:30 pm.

We have a full programme of events, demonstrations and workshops. All are welcome at Leigh Floral, so why not come along and see what we are about? For more information contact Karen Cobb on 07818 431552.

Serving the Homeless Update

HARP has officially opened the new Bluebird House facility opposite the Kursaal, offering accommodation for a further 50 people, together with counselling and training.



The opening was performed by the Rt Rev Archbishop of York - local boy Stephen Cottrell - and the occasion was marked by the planting of a tree. Bluebird features an intricate terrace of six brand new shared houses as well as three renovated properties in Southchurch Avenue and is now home to local people who are recovering after a period of homelessness. Well done to all involved in bringing this project to fruition!

Our next fundraising event is the Summer Raffle, where you can win one of many hampers. Tickets at £1 each can be bought now from Frank Edmonds. Prizes include Teatime Treats, Italian Feast, Luxury Pamper, Whiskey Tipples, gardening essentials, plant and herb baskets. The draw will take place on Monday 2 October 2023. Good Luck

Save the Dates



This event, in support of Serving the Homeless, is on 7 October at St Margaret's Hall Lime Avenue at 7:15 pm, presented and organised by Majestic Wines. There will be cheese and nibbles, and raffle prizes. including tickets for a wine tasting event at Majestic in Southend, Book while the *blancs* are still *chambré* by emailing Marylisa at mail@marylisabrowne.com

John Houlding

Sadly I have to pass on news of the death of John Houlding at the age of 86. John was for some years both a Church Steward here at Highlands and a Scout Leader of 9th Leigh on Sea, our affiliated Scout Group.

Though born in Ilford, John spent much of his childhood in Tilehurst near Reading due to WW2 evacuation. In due course he would return to Essex, attend Westcliff High School for Boys and marry a local girl named Hilary. Together they founded a dynasty of four sons and later, 9 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. Sadly one of their sons, Christopher died last year.

Too young to serve in WW2, John nevertheless did National Service before returning to join what was then the Southend on Sea Borough Police [SOSBP]. In 1969 Essex Police merged with SOSBP and John left, being reluctant to commit to serving anywhere in the county. He had several jobs after this but decided eventually to retire from Countrywide Properties in his early sixties.

During his retirement he and Hilary made many visits to a favourite holiday destination in the southern Austrian state of Styria. He became in latter years a Salvation Army member and worshipper at Hadleigh temple. His thanksgiving service (following a private committal) will be at the Hadleigh SA Temple on 18 July at 10:45.

The Bradwell Pilgrimage...

...is an annual gathering of Christians from across Essex & East London and beyond. The Pilgrimage starts at St Thomas', Bradwell-on-sea and ends at the beautiful St Peter's Chapel. The event is



taking place this year on Saturday 1 July from 10:30am – 4:00 pm. It's free to attend - but bring a picnic. There will be worship, workshops and walks and a wonderful time of fellowship. Speakers this year include Archdeacon Mike Power of the Diocese of Chelmsford, Rob Purnell from Love Essex and Patrick Regan OBE from Kintsugi Hope.

The Theme this year is "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

Further information at www.bradwellpilgrimage.co.uk

News of our Itinerant Organist

Tim Francis is on one of his regular summer cycle tours, sending regular reports back with photos. He is currently following the River Danube (see what I did there...) and sends this picture of the magnificent organ at St Florian, Austria, the home and final resting place of the composer Anton Bruckner. Note on Tim's picture the typically restrained Austrian style...



THE UNITED SERVICE at WESLEY 11:00 am 20 August 2023 FAVOURITES

I first thought up and introduced this style of service at Wesley in 2021. I repeated it in 2022 and both times it seemed appreciated and enjoyed. I am planned to be at Wesley on 20 August this year and will use the Favourites format for what is this time a united service for Highlands and Belfairs at Wesley.

The invitation now goes out to all three congregations to make your requests and offers for consideration. Looking back at the 2022 Order of Service, we had favourite bible readings, worship songs, stories, prayers, hymns, poems, Christian quotations, and pieces of music. I encourage you to take part. If you can't do that, it may not be a problem. Others may be willing to read on your behalf or explain the significance of your choice. Be specific; for example, if you want Psalm 120 in the King James authorised



version, you need to say so!

We hope to have the Wesley Music Group to sing for us as well as musicians with their own instruments. Previously some people have given their own testimony as a natural outcome of their contribution.

I hope to include as many people/requests as possible from all three churches, so there is a limit of five minutes per item. Please contact me during June and July with your requests/offers/queries.

Eileen Simmons

Tel: 472521 email: eileen.kester.simmons@gmail.com

Zoom Circuit Bible Study - The Book of Revelation

Jane Fulford asks me to issue an open invitation to join with her and study *The Book of Revelation*. The studies take place on Thursdays between 2:30 pm and 3.30 pm on Zoom.



Dates: 6 July, 13 July, 20 July, 27 July

Please contact Jane via email fulford.family@btinternet.com if you are interested in taking part.

Action for Children (AfC)



Just as COVID was striking I accepted the challenge of taking on the role of coordinating AfC from Sylvia Cornwell, who had done a wonderful job, efficiently and quietly, for some years.

I collected many of the collecting boxes/lanterns and deposited approximately

£100. At that time lots of us were unsure about the best way forward, especially with loose change apparently disappearing from circulation.

Subsequently some more boxes/lanterns have alighted and I have another £100 to deposit. Loose change seems to be around again. What is certain is that the need to support the work of AfC, providing safe and happy childhoods, has only increased in the difficult times we are now in.

So, THANK YOU if you have supported AfC before. Can I ask if you would do so again? I have some lanterns and a plan to collect and empty them regularly, at least once a year.

If you really don't know what AfC does, (or equally if you do) I have two invitations –

1. Please join us for worship on Sunday 9 July (AfC Sunday)
2. Or come to the coffee morning on Saturday 8 July, when it is possible that we will find cake as well as a chat and information leaflets.

I should of course be delighted to empty any remaining boxes and return those I have or accept any donations on either day. Or if neither of those works for you, just contact me on 01702 55770.

Please don't let my gross inefficiency detract Highlands Methodist Church from its support of AfC.

Together we can make a difference.

AfC protects and supports children and young people, providing practical and emotional care and support, ensuring their voices are heard, and campaigning to bring lasting improvements to their lives.

Thank you
Pamela Smith

From the Editor



A few weeks ago, Lesley and I visited some friends in Ashwell, Herts. It was their 'At Home ' day where the village annually has a day out that includes open gardens, children's workshops, walks, talks, musical entertainment, and home-made food.

One attraction that caught Lesley's eye was a harp player offering free mini-lessons, and she spent about 25 minutes being tutored. To cut a long story short, we now own a harp similar to the one pictured here, and Lesley is determined to learn how to play it.

A plucky decision, you might say (sorry!) since the harp is a fiendishly difficult beast to overcome. There are a couple of things in its favour. Firstly, it sounds quite charming even when a beginner tackles it (compare that if you will to a violin). And secondly, Lesley has a great deal more patience than I do. She would

say that virtually everyone has more patience than I do, but we'll leave that harshness to one side.

But let's dwell for a moment on difficult tasks that need a bit of patience. The job of minister of Highlands falls, I think, into that category. As well as all the usual mumbles and grumbles, the all-too-frequent deaths and illnesses, the shortage of volunteers we can add a helping of perpetual financial jeopardy. Into the mix we now add a large dollop of COVID lockdown, and a minister who is forced to divide his time between Highlands, one or two other equally querulous congregations and a demanding course of study

at the Queen's Foundation, Birmingham. And, lest we forget, Steve (for it is he of whom I write) has a private life and a family.

I remember hearing Steve preach for the first time. I was impressed by his sense of humour and natural connection with his audience, no less than by the clear and simple way he put across some difficult teachings. He had and still has a very direct way of speaking to people of all ages and leading in prayer, but without affecting his ability to listen to and absorb people's concerns. I admit that his jokes are truly awful, but producing a groan from an audience is a reliable sign of paying attention.



So I for one will bid farewell to Steve with reluctance and regret. There are compensations. He is not going far – he will be minister for Wesley and Belfairs, and we will see him there at united services; also later, when he comes back as a visiting preacher at Highlands. Meanwhile his replacement, the newly-minted Rev Heather Simmons will be very welcome indeed.

Ananias

Out and About

If I asked you for an example of British wildlife that is dangerous, you might say 'an adder'. True enough, they have a painful bite but it's not fatal to humans. I almost trod on one last year. Far from biting me, it slid away very quickly, without so much as a 'by your leave'.



Adders are very shy, and you would be very unlucky if one bit you. Hornets are really quite docile, and the moon jellyfish that are very common on our beaches cannot sting.

There is an animal that is much more common, quite liable to make you ill, and very keen to bite you, or your dog. *Ixodidae*, to use their Latin name, are liable to be found anywhere that there are sheep, rabbits or deer on grass or in woodland. Almost anywhere in the UK, in fact. The warm weather suits them very well, and they will try to attach themselves to you or your dog. They are not obvious, because at the start of their life they are no bigger than this full stop.

You know these little pests better as ticks. If you or your dog get bitten, either of you you can become quite unwell unless you take prompt action to remove ticks. You can get an appropriate tick remover from your vet or local pet shop. This will work for you as well as for your dog – as long as he doesn't mind.

Puzzle of the Month¹

As I write this, it is 21 June, the summer solstice. Imagine now that I am in a featureless desert. If this morning I

- leave my supplies behind
- walk towards sunrise for ten minutes, then wait all day,
- then walk towards sunset for ten minutes,

I will find that I am at a different place to my supplies! In which direction must I now walk to get back to my start? A bonus point if you can tell me how long the walk will take, at the same speed.



¹ Solution page 18

Dining In

I like, when I can, to make my own ice cream and avoid all the stuff that goes into commercial ice cream. Seaweed, for example.

This creates a small problem. Very much a first-world problem, but a problem nevertheless. Almost all ice cream recipes use egg yolks, but not egg whites. So, I'm left with unused egg whites looking for a recipe. Which is how I came across this.

Amaretti Biscuits

Ingredients

2 egg whites
150g caster sugar
175g ground almonds
1 tbsp amaretto liqueur²
Icing sugar to dust

Method

- Preheat oven to 170°C (150°C fan) and line a large baking sheet with baking parchment
- Put egg whites in a large clean bowl and whisk until stiff peaks form. An electric hand-whisk is strongly recommended but it can be done by hand if you have patience and stamina.
- Gently fold the sugar, almonds and liqueur into the bowl to form a thick paste.
- Roll the paste into small balls by hand, then coat each ball liberally in icing sugar.
- Bake balls on the lined baking sheet for 15-20 minutes until golden brown and cracked on top.

This should produce about 30 biscuits, semi-soft with a harder outside. You can adjust the amount of egg white to make them harder or softer. They'll keep well for 7 days in an airtight container.

² Or a few drops of almond extract if you prefer

Poem of the Month

I like this suggestion from my dear wife. It confirms my own view and must therefore be sound and convincing. Very little is known of the author, except that she was born in Yorkshire and is apparently still with us. She appears not to relish the limelight. This work first appeared in *The Lady* in 1998.



Dust If You Must by Rose Milligan

Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better
To paint a picture, or write a letter,
Bake a cake, or plant a seed;
Ponder the difference between want and need?

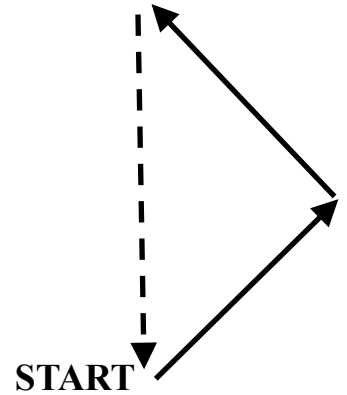
Dust if you must, but there's not much time,
With rivers to swim, and mountains to climb;
Music to hear, and books to read;
Friends to cherish, and life to lead.

Dust if you must, but the world's out there
With the sun in your eyes, and the wind in your hair;
A flutter of snow, a shower of rain,
This day will not come around again.

Dust if you must, but bear in mind,
Old age will come and it's not kind.
And when you go (and go you must)
You, yourself, will make more dust.

Puzzle of the Month Solution

You know of course that the sun rises in the east and sets in the west, but that is exactly correct only at the spring and autumn equinoxes. At the summer solstice the sun actually travels from NE to NW. (At the winter solstice, just before Christmas, it goes from SE to SW, but we need not worry about that). So, my journey ought to look look like the one on this simple map ⇒



To get to my start point, I must travel **due south** (dotted line), and that nice Mr Pythagoras, whom you may remember meeting when you were a little younger, will tell you that the journey will take 14 minutes, 8 seconds.
But 14 minutes is near enough I think.

Humour Corner

[The jokes below are dedicated to Pastor Steve]

Supermarket Customer: *I want to complain about this jar of vinegar you sold me yesterday. It's got lumps in it.*

Supermarket Manager: *Indeed it has sir. I think that's probably because it's a jar of pickled onions.*

Frog, to police officer: *I left my car parked here, and now it's disappeared!*

Police officer: *Well, sir, this is a double yellow line. I think you'll find it's been toad away.*

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 ³ 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	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

³ Every fortnight

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 September 2023 issue should be emailed to
andrewghyde@aol.com before the **deadline of Sunday 27
August**, and earlier if possible. No email? Don't despair; just
telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.

A Final Image

At the small town of Melk in Austria this monastery (or is it a
fortress?) dominates the view across the River Danube flowing
down the Wachau Valley to Vienna. Picture T Francis.

