



The **HIGHLANDER**

March 2023

The monthly newsletter of Highlands Methodist
Church, Leigh on Sea

These are services for March 2023.

11:00 am Sun 5 th	Morning Worship 2 nd in Lent	Kathy McCullough
11:00 am Sun 12 th	Morning Worship Communion United Service @ Wesley	Pastor Steve Mayo Rev Norman Hooks
11:00 am Sun 19 th	Morning Worship Mothering Sunday	Pastor Steve Mayo
11:00 am Sun 26 th	Morning Worship Communion	Bob Briant



 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.

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

All telephone numbers are '01702' unless stated

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Worship Leaders	Jennifer Courtenay Frank Edmonds	556140 525250
Church Treasurer	Steve Watson	555702 ¹
Property Co-ordinator		
Children's Worker	Ros Bryant	478631
Pastoral Co-ordinator	Jean Edmonds	525250
Church Flowers	Jean Edmonds	525250
Lettings/Use of Premises	Les Davis	558381

Please note that we are two stewards and a property co-ordinator short. If you think you could help out, please get in touch with any of the stewards to find out what's involved.

¹ This is David Watson's number as Steve is away at present

From Your Minister



Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word 'lencten', which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin His ministry.

Traditionally, Lent has been all about giving things up, and over the years people have given up all sorts of things like chocolate, sweets, desserts, and even more recently Facebook and other social media activities!

I think giving things up can be helpful if it focuses our thoughts and prayers on our preparation for the arrival of Easter.

But I don't believe that Lent should be a time for just giving things up, but also for taking things up!

Sometimes, I think when we really look at our lives and the time we spend with our Lord, we can often come to the conclusion that we've fasted all year since the last Lenten season, or even longer; fasting our prayer life, fasting our daily devotional time, fasting our giving?

So, my prayer for all of us, myself included, is that this Lenten

season we would take some things up, and really prepare ourselves for the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

And as we grow in our knowledge and personal relationship with Him, Easter will be a far greater experience for us as we commune and bring ourselves into His presence in this time of preparation and confession. Scripture tells us;

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.'

[1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NIVUK]

Every blessing,
Pastor Steve
01702 483827
pastorstevemayo@gmail.com

Services At Highlands

During the cold weather, the Church Council took a decision, for reasons of economy, to use the hall for some activities, rather than the much larger sanctuary. The milder weather that has occurred recently has however enabled us to move back to the sanctuary in reasonable comfort.

It is however possible that winter hasn't finished with us yet. So do remember to wrap up well when attending any event at Highlands. We have plenty of room to hang coats up.

Humour Corner

Judge:
George Albert Smithers, you have been found guilty on a charge of excessive use of commas. You have therefore to expect a very long sentence...





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 deepest sympathy to the friends and family of Dorothy Allen²...

...**also** friends and family of Mavis Simmons³, and of Ann Hearne who died in January and was a regular member of the Chatter group and the lunch club where she made many friends.

We ask your **thoughts and prayers** for those unwell at this moment including
Meriel Mallet who is unwell
Sandy (Lunch Club member) after a fall

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.

† **Dorothy Allen**

I am very sorry to say that Dorothy (“Dot”) Allen died in hospital on 15 February, aged 91.

Her links with Highlands go back to her baptism in January 1932. Mr and Mrs Roberts, her parents, attended Highlands where Dorothy and her brother David became members of the Sunday school. Dorothy moved on to become a Sunday school

² See below

³ A message from Mavis’s nephew is below

teacher, and when I was nine years old I was in her class. I remember going to the Roberts's house for tea on Sunday school anniversary.

Dorothy was also involved in the uniformed organisations and the youth club. She later played badminton at Highlands and was part of the drama group 'The Badminton Players'.

She married John Allen and they have a son Peter.

Dorothy worked as secretary at Hadleigh Junior School, and after retirement she helped at Southend Hospital each week for several years, invariably travelling there and back on her bike. From walks and outings with the youth club, she later enjoyed walks with a local group of friends. She continued to enjoy visits to the Woodlands Centre and the café at the golf range in recent years.

I shall greatly miss my pastoral visits to her. May she rest in peace.

RB

† **Mavis Simmonds.**

My Auntie Mavis, the last surviving child of Harry and Dorothy Simmonds, died in early January. For many years she had lived with her good friend and companion, Edith Bamber, in North Weald. Our family worshipped at Highlands from the late 1940s through into the 1980s and I thought that some Highlanders would still remember us. Mavis's brothers were Alan, Eric and Keith, with Jean her sister.

For some years, Mavis had been attending Holy Innocents Church, High Beach, and her funeral was held there in the middle of Epping Forest on a cold but sunny day.

Over recent years, I kept in touch with Stella and Keith Carter and tried without success to contact them after Mavis's death. I then looked at *The Highlander* online and learnt with sadness



that they had died late last year. My parents regularly played badminton and tennis with them and I can well remember playing Subbuteo on the floor with 'Uncle' Keith!

It was good to see that there are still people that I remember, for example, Rosalie Bryant. A couple of months ago, I was giving a talk at Castle Hedingham for the National Trust about the Coast of Essex. I included a picture taken of a 'seafront bus' outside the former Church, later the Church Hall. I remarked that my parents had been married there and was amazed when a couple in the audience shouted back "So were we!". They were Hilary Field and her husband Andrew (Peronne?). We had a good chat after my talk!

I had a very happy time growing up in the 1950s and 60s and was fortunate that our family had such strong connections with Highlands Methodist Church. I am quite happy to give further information to anyone interested – please contact me through the editor.

David Simmonds

Snippets

Hobbies

On 2 March we plan to paint Sunseekers and continue our Card making for Easter. On 16 March we'll make Silk flowers in Baskets for Easter; also cards. 25 March sees our Easter Coffee morning with sales of our cards and gifts and delicious cakes. 30 March will be an extra morning with a free hand to do various card making styles, plus Easter nibbles.

All events are 10:00 to 12:00 noon and all are welcome.
Jean 525250

Serving the Homeless

A StH fundraising Quiz Evening will be held at St Margaret's Church Hall on 11 March at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. £5 per head - bring your own drinks and nibbles and brains. See Dave Watson if you're interested in joining in.

International Outreach

Pastor Steve is (I'm sure you knew) undertaking a training course at present. His supervisors have decided that his training, alongside his pastoring, is a big responsibility. Accordingly, the view has been taken that a few weeks doing God's work away from the circuit would be beneficial.



Now, Steve expected to be dispatched to somewhere exotic. Basildon for example. But no, instead they have arranged for him to go for the whole of July to boring, tropical Sri Lanka, with its sublime temples, beautiful beaches and colourful wildlife. A tough posting, but someone has to do it...

We pray for a safe journey and success in his mission.

Mind Your Language

If you would like to learn (or improve) Spanish, German, Italian or French, David Mallett offers tuition. Contact David on 07717 671965 or email davidcjmallett@yahoo.co.uk.⁴

Church Flowers

Church flowers will be donated:

- On 5 March by Sylvia Cornwell in memory of Alan
- On 19 (Mothering Sunday) by Ros in memory of her parents
- On 26 by Betty Hall in memory of Arthur

⁴ Highlander does not generally accept advertising, but an exception applies for church members

Save the Date

The following important dates beckon. Details to follow:

Saturday 6 May	Coronation Celebration Live on TV
Sunday 7 May	Service of Celebration
Tuesday 15 Aug	Community Day

Puzzle of the Month⁵

On my bookshelves I have 150 books. Recently I sorted them into three categories. Crime, on the top shelf; Romance, on the middle shelf; Non-fiction, on the lowest shelf. There are three times as many books on the top shelf (painted blue) as there are on the middle (red), which contains only half as many as the lowest shelf (green).

So, how many books of each type do I have?

Humour Corner

This is an extract from a real insurance claim questionnaire. The claimant had collided with a cow:

Q: What warning was given by you?

A: *Sounded my horn.*

Q: What warning was given by the other party?

A: *Moo.*



⁵ Solution page 14

From the Editor

As I write this, the TV news is dominated by buildings, streets and whole towns in Turkey and Syria that have been devastated. Where once were blocks of flats, homes to dozens of people, there are now piles of rubble. I cannot imagine how it feels to have your home, and everything in



it, completely smashed in a matter of seconds. Far worse than that, thousands have lost friends and family in sudden disaster. Many now must put aside mourning in order to take care of the living, and the survivors must feel that God has forsaken them.

Meanwhile in Ukraine, more homes have been smashed, thousands of lives lost, families shattered on both sides of the conflict. This is clearly a result of human folly and wickedness.

Human blame can also be levelled in Turkey and Syria. Fewer lives – many fewer – would have been lost in Turkey if buildings had been constructed in accordance with regulations published in 2001, following a disastrous earthquake in Izmit in 1999. In Syria, an existing conflict has hampered the rescue attempt, costing lives that could have been saved. This seems to point to a world where there is no respite from a careless God.

As flies to wanton boys are we to the gods. They kill us for their sport

[King Lear: W Shakespeare]

However, that's not the full story. God has provided a perfect habitat for all. Where there are natural disasters, He has given us ways, if only we take them, of mitigating harm. If the harm is only financial, then we might look to insurance.

Insurance has a particular resonance for Leigh on Sea. Many local people have made careers in insurance, principally because

London EC3 (close to Fenchurch St station) is the world centre of the insurance industry. However, insurance doesn't work with war damage, which most policies exclude.

What we need is insurance that is 100% reliable, with no loopholes. So let me recommend Jesus Christ - the ultimate insurance. Be assured that JC

- will never go into liquidation
- will never refuse a claim
- always pays out
- covers every risk
- is backed by an underwriter whose assets are beyond price.

If in doubt, refer to your policy. JC has a very detailed policy document called *The Bible*. Not only does this document spell out the insurance benefits that are available, it also contains wise advice for every disaster. To sum up the level of cover that is available:

If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.
[Matthew 21:22 NIV]

At the moment we pray for comfort and relief for the people of Turkey, Syria and Ukraine, and the strength to recover. The rebuilding will take decades. We must also pray that lessons will be learned, so that the scale of these disasters is never repeated.

Meanwhile you can help financially. As is always the case with major emergencies, donations can be made through the Disasters Emergency Committee (www.dec.org.uk)



Andrew

Dining In – Mushroom Curry

I've had some very good feedback for previous vegetarian recipes so here is another. By the way I should have mentioned that last month's recipe serves 4.

Once again it uses mushrooms as its main ingredient. I'm a big fan of mushrooms, mainly because they are very much veggie, but they don't make a big fuss about it, like some ingredients do. There are many different safely edible varieties you can buy, including the rare and expensive laetiporus, AKA 'chicken of the woods' because it really does taste like chicken. This recipe works with basic mushrooms.

Ingredients

(serves 2)

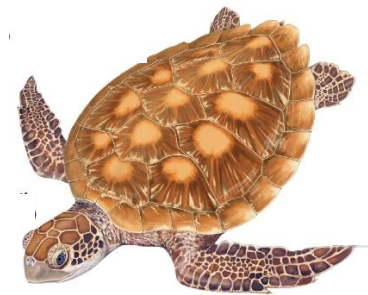
80g unsalted butter	¼ tsp ground turmeric
500g chestnut mushrooms	½ tsp Kashmir chilli powder
5 tbsp sunflower oil	½ tsp garam masala
1 tsp cumin seeds	400g tinned tomatoes
1 tsp fennel seeds	1 tsp caster sugar
1 lge onion, chopped	2 tbsp full fat Greek yogurt
4 garlic cloves, chopped	2 tbsp chopped coriander
1 tsp ground ginger	Rice or naan bread to serve

Method

- Heat butter and fry mushrooms in pan or wok for 10 mins
- Set mushrooms aside and fry cumin and fennel in oil in same pan, stirring, about 30 secs
- Add the onion and fry 12-15 mins, then add garlic for a further min
- Add the ginger, turmeric, chilli powder and garam masala, then tomatoes and sugar; cook for 5-7 minutes uncovered until the masala thickens
- Put yogurt in small bowl then add 2 tbsps of the hot masala; mix well then add back into the pan
- Add 100ml of hot water and cook until it has texture of double cream
- Return the mushrooms to the pan to warm through and then serve, garnished with the coriander, with rice or naan

Poem(s) of the Month

So, this month I offer you not one but three poems, all short, all by the same author. Ogden Nash (1902-71) was famous for witty, light and pithy verses. The first one here is just entertainment, seasoned with mischief and an outrageous rhyme. The second is a good piece of advice that I use to inscribe cards of congratulation when I am too lazy to think of anything original. The third is rather poignant in its way and conveys a message that we must all take to heart eventually.



The Turtle

The turtle lives 'twixt plated decks
Which practically conceal its sex.
I think it clever of the turtle
In such a fix to be so fertile.

A Word to Husbands

To keep your marriage brimming,
With love in the loving cup,
Whenever you're wrong, admit it;
Whenever you're right, shut up.



Old Men

People expect old men to die,
They do not really mourn old men.
Old men are different. People look
At them with eyes that wonder when...
People watch with unshocked eyes;
But the old men know when an old man dies.

Puzzle of the Month Solution

Not too hard to solve. The detail that is only there to confuse.

Here is an algebraic solution.

Others are available.

First let's summarise the information, using the abbreviations C for Crime, R for Romance and N for Non-fiction.

We know that:

- Three times as many C as R: $C=3R$
- Twice as many N as R: $N=2R$
- Total is 150: $C+R+N=150$

Now let's rewrite the last equation according to the first two:

- $3R+R+2R=150$

Hence: $6R=150 \Rightarrow R=25$

So the answer is:

- Crime – top shelf – 75 books
- Romance – middle shelf – 25 books
- Non-fiction – bottom shelf – 50 books

I really must try to return some of these to the library.

Humour Corner

I accidentally booked myself onto an escapology course; I'm really struggling to get out of it.



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 ⁶ 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 ⁷	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

⁶ Every fortnight

⁷ 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 April 2023 issue should be emailed to
andrewghyde@aol.com before the **deadline of Sunday 26
March**, and earlier if possible. No email? Don't despair; just
telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.

A Final Image

The River Wye, taken from Symonds Yat, Herefordshire

