




The **HIGHLANDER**

May 2021

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

11:00 am Sun 2 nd	Morning Worship Café Church	Kathy McCullough
11:00 am Sun 9 th	Morning Worship Communion	Pastor Steve Mayo
11:00 am Sun 16 th	Morning Worship	Worship Leaders
11:00 am Sun 23 rd	Morning Worship	Eileen Simmons
11:00 am Sun 30 th	Morning Worship United Service at Highlands	Pastor Steve Mayo

These services are scheduled to be held live in Highlands Church and transmitted on Zoom to anyone who cannot attend. For the live services, please wear facial covering (unless exempt), observe distancing and reserve places by calling Julie. If, as is likely, there are changes, these will be notified by email or on Facebook.

 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.

Highlands Methodist Church Hospitality in the Midst of our Community

All telephone numbers are '01702' unless stated

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From Your Minister

Last summer one of my daughters bought me a banana plant. I had never kept a banana plant before and I was impressed by the speed of growth; every few days a new leaf would appear!



But unfortunately, due to my lack of banana plant care, I left it outside for the winter and it has died.

Fortunately, this spring, one of my other daughters has bought me another banana plant, which, of course, I have been extremely careful with, keeping it indoors and even rotating windowsills so it gets the most sun!

But what has most caught my attention about this new banana plant, and I assume all banana plants, is the way they grow. New leaves do appear very rapidly, but as they do, the oldest leaf dies off, but the plant still gets fatter and taller; it thrives.

This reminded me of our Christian journeys and what Christ tells us to do with the things which are wrong in our lives.

He says we are to die to these things then we will be able to thrive, to live life to the full. Romans 6:11 says;

'In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.' [NIVUK]

Jesus isn't asking us to lose things which benefits us, but the things which hinder us in our relationship with Him. He doesn't want to take life away, but to give it to us. John 10:10b;

'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.' [NIVUK]

So, just as the banana plant sheds the things which could hold back grow, may we shed the things which hold us back, and grasp that fulness of life which Jesus talks about in John 10:10.

I look forward to hoping seeing you all soon in person!

Every blessing,

Pastor Steve, May 2021

pastorstevemayo@gmail.com

01702 483827

Humour Corner

Café customer:

For my breakfast today I'd like two poached eggs on toast. One piece of toast must be burned to a cinder, the other one hardly touched, just like a piece of bread left in the sun to dry out. One egg must be so hard that when I try to stab it, it bounces off the table on to the floor, and the other one so soft and runny that it drips down onto my jacket, which then has to be dry-cleaned. OK?

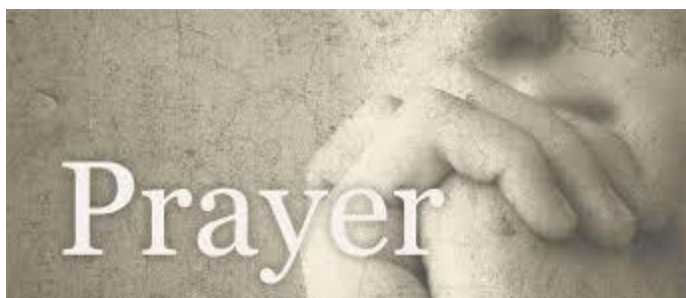


Waiter

I'm not sure that chef can do that...

Café customer:

Well, he managed it yesterday morning.



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.

Julia Monaghan, continuing her fight against ovarian cancer writes

I am starting 6 months of weekly chemo, the week of the 19 April. My caravan reopens on the week of 12 April, so I hope to be down there when I can. Leon, my grandson, is a star and good at maths (like his dad). He's been promoted at nursery to a new class, as he told me on Friday, "leaving the babies and joining the boys!" I tried to make it clear that there would be clever girls there too, but he didn't seem much impressed with that! The treatment regime sounds so awful but we are still enjoying life!

Katy Kollacz (née Saville) has had some bumps in the road of her recovery from surgery. Please continue praying for her full recovery.

Steve Mayo's mum **Valerie Davis** continues to be unwell.

Jill Pickford, whom many of you will have known, sadly died on 14 April. We send our deepest sympathy to Roger, Jonathan, Charlotte and sister Barbara and all the families on her sudden loss. Jill had been ill for some time with Roger as her sole carer. She was taken into hospital on 5 April and allowed home on the following Sunday with full homecare support. She died peacefully with her family at the bedside.

We remember Jill's beautiful singing voice and her piano playing in

our flourishing Sunday School and pantomime rehearsals. She must have been very proud of the considerable musical talent that Jonathan and Charlotte showed in our music group.

From the Editor

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.

A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted.

A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.



A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak.

A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

This is a well-known passage traditionally ascribed to King Solomon who would have written it in the 10th century BCE. Some may remember that it was adapted as a song (*Turn! Turn! Turn!*) by Pete Seeger, a hit in the 1960s for The Byrds. Probably the only Old Testament verses to make it to No 1 in the US charts (it only got to No 26 in the UK). King Solomon was well out of copyright by the 1960s, but Seeger donated 45% of the songwriting royalties to a human rights charity anyway.

In a more up-to-date reference, the new Bond film, out in October (probably), will be titled *No Time to Die*. It's the last outing as 007 for Daniel Craig, who will be replaced by a woman actor. Until they made that decision, I was ready to throw my hat in the ring. Never mind.



Back to the verses from Ecclesiastes. You'll see that there are 16 'times' and they are arranged in 8 pairs. On first sight, these pairs seem like diametric opposites, but I prefer to think of them two sides of the same coin. Take 'love' and 'hate' as an example. Arguably the opposite of love is not in fact hate; it is indifference.



It seems to me that if you accept one side of the coin, then you must also accept the other. For example, you earn the right to speak by sometimes being silent and listening to others.

The other thing that strikes me about these verses is their lasting relevance. Consider this line:

'a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing.'

Perhaps Solomon was aware of the way that plagues and diseases were and still are spread. But some of us still fail to take heed.

On 9 April Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh died at the age of 99. BBC News covered the event very heavily on that Friday evening, postponing the entire schedule including the final of *Masterchef* and

(shockingly) an episode of *Eastenders*. As a result, the BBC received a record 109,741 complaints about this. They even received 116 complaints from members of the public that the BBC had made it too easy to complain about the extent of the coverage. Clearly you can't please everyone.

I can't say whether it was too much, too little or just about right. What I would say is that the BBC recognised that it was 'a time to mourn' and acted accordingly. Over the past year all of us have had far too many times to mourn. There are probably more to come.

But the message of Ecclesiastes is that there is another side to that coin. It promises us 'a time to dance' and the gradual emergence of our nation from times of pandemic and lockdown is a sure sign of that. We are starting to heal, and soon surely there will be times to build up, to laugh, to dance, to cast away stones, to embrace, to speak, to love, and even perhaps - a time of peace.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrea', with a stylized, cursive script.

Snippets

Church Flowers

I feel that is time to start a new diary for Church flower donations. If anyone would like to choose a date, I should be delighted to hear from you.

Jean Edmonds

Christian Aid

It was an uncertain start to the year for many of us with national lockdown lasting much longer than we expected. Yet the vaccination rollout and plans to ease lockdown give us hope that things are starting to change for the better - and that we can still celebrate the upcoming Christian Aid Week, which this year is 10 to 16 May.



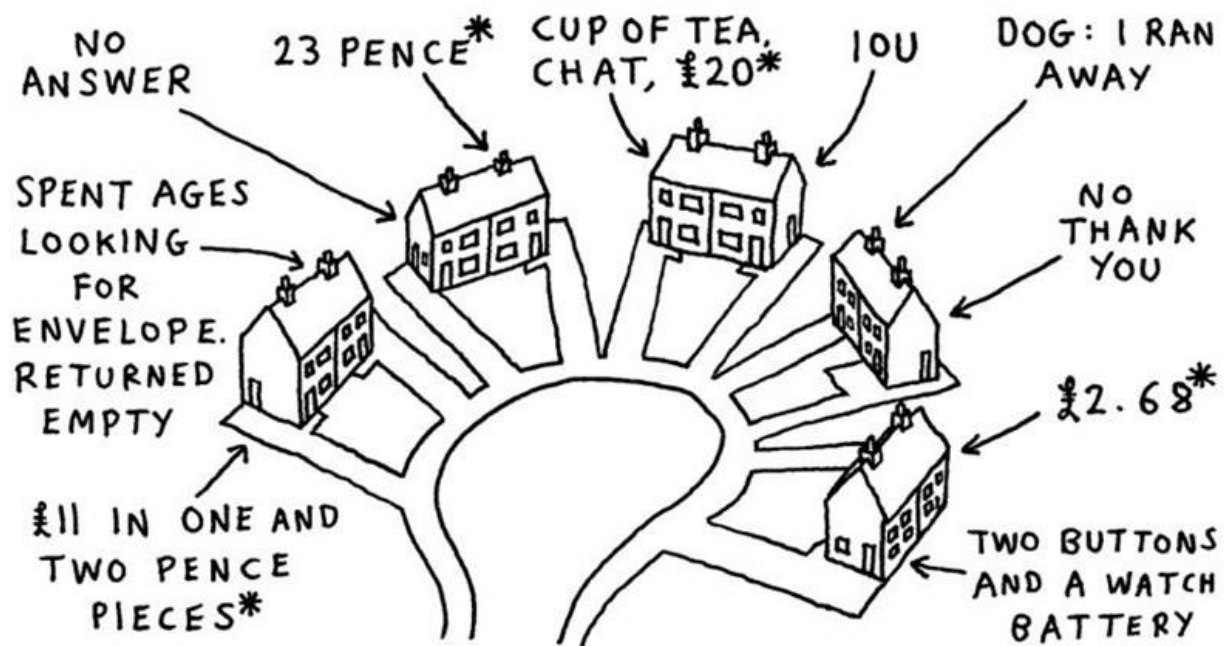
Together, the supporters deliver millions of envelopes to people's homes each year and this amazing act of witness has been happening for more than 60 years. Each envelope collected could help people living in poverty.

The new, specially designed 'delivery only' envelope allows the donor to label or write on the envelopes to tell supporters where to drop their donation. The drop off point in our case would be the church. There is no need to knock or collect and we can cover more homes.

We will be looking for volunteers for the traditional 'deliver and collect' envelopes, as well as delivery only envelopes. Please check your diaries and keep the dates free so that Highlands can make its usual magnificent collection. I have now been the Christian Aid representative for about 40 years with a small but loyal band of fairly reluctant volunteers to whom I am extremely grateful. I would be very happy for someone to take over from me but for my last year I would appreciate all the help you can give to keep up our usual much needed generous donation.

Jean Edmonds

COLLECTING CHRISTIAN AID ENVELOPES



(Cartoon Dave Walker (of course) www.churchtimes.co.uk)

Hobbies

We are still watching the rules but will make sure that you all know the soonest we can be together for our Hobbies sessions.

Meantime if anyone would like Greetings cards or Birthday cards Ros (478631) or Margaret (557512) would be happy to help.

Regards 📞Jean 525250 and Julie 📞479804

Serving the Homeless

We continue to receive various amounts by way of donations and the income from the 200 Club means that we can honour our commitments to HARP and Southend YMCA.

The only fund-raising event on the books at the moment is our Summer raffle. As the COVID restrictions begin to ease we can get

out and about and meet a few more people face to face. Our raffle this year offers a HAMPER BONANZA. There are many hampers to be won including, Pampering, Gardening, Indian, Children's, Spirits, Wine and Afternoon Tea. Tickets are available now from Jean and Frank Edmonds.

Tickets are £1 each and the draw will take place on Monday 6 September 2021, hopefully at St Margaret's Church Hall.

Thank you for your prayers and support. Hopefully as restrictions continue to ease the charity shops will reopen and a stream of income can start again. We also hope to be able to receive donations at the back of church when unrestricted services begin again at Highlands.

Easter Offering for World Mission

Thank you very much to everyone who contributed. This year Highlands gave £263 to this fund, which supports and works with 65 Partner Churches around the world. Their mission takes many forms: as just one example (among many) this funding has enabled young women in north India to undertake nurse and midwifery training.

Humour Corner

Dog owner

I just got a rescue dog. Once owned by a locksmith I reckon.

Friend

How do you know that?

Dog owner

I got him home and he made a bolt for the door.

Music Matters

From our Special Music Correspondent:

I have now been an organist at Highlands Methodist Church for over three years and have been deeply grateful for the warm welcome and kind comments during this period. I feel very much at home in the church and greatly enjoy playing for services.

I am occasionally asked interesting questions and here I will attempt to answer some of them.

What is your favourite kind of music?

I enjoy not only music written for the organ – although no doubt it is enough to fill a lifetime – but also the whole range of the classical repertoire from ancient Gregorian Chant to the present day, both secular and spiritual.

I would find it very difficult to select eight 'Desert Island' discs, let alone name a specific piece or genre. I suppose I would have to say there are a few composers whom I play or listen to more frequently than others, among them J S Bach, Haydn and Mozart. I like Tudor composers such as Tallis and Byrd. Among others I admire are Mendelssohn – particularly the Songs Without Words for piano – Schumann, Bruckner, Mahler, Stravinsky, Max Reger, Schönberg (yes, really) and particularly Delius and Bax for their orchestral works: I am not attracted though to every genre or piece of every composer.



Have you a favourite hymn?

I have many favourites, mostly those solid nineteenth and early twentieth-century hymns for their words, their melody and their

harmony: Thou didst leave Thy Throne and Thy Kingly Crown,
There is a land of pure delight, Praise to the Lord the Almighty (StF 88), Love Divine (StF 503), Just as I am without one plea (StF 556),
Ye Holy Angels bright (StF 69), Dear Lord and Father of Mankind
(both melodies - StF 495), Immortal Invisible (StF 55), Onward
Christian Soldiers, to name but a few.

Have you played different organs?

Yes. I came to playing the organ only by accident when I took up a post of Director of Music in a school in Hertfordshire. The outgoing incumbent was the organist at the local church and so I was offered the position informally along with the job.

It was a 'tracker'-action pipe organ, which means that the keys are physically linked to a mechanism which opens valves to let air into pipes. The more stops you use, the heavier the keys get, and if you are using a lot of stops, you have to apply some pressure. This organ had about eighteen stops, if I remember rightly. Playing such an organ can give your forearms a great workout.

Many pipe organs have been built with, or have been converted to, electrically operated mechanisms so that the keyboard becomes very light to play. The development of the digital organ has been an enormous leap forward. Pipe organs are very expensive to build and maintain. Even a modest instrument would cost a six-figure sum. A digital organ has pre-recorded sounds of real pipe organs and has therefore no pipes of its own. You can have the Albert Hall organ in your church, if you so desire! A reasonably-sized instrument costs a fraction of the price of a pipe organ and there are very few maintenance costs. However, I would not like to see the pipe organ disappear; digital organs, which require speakers, are far less suited to larger churches and cathedrals.

The smallest pipe organ I have played is at Rawreth, which has only



one manual, half a pedalboard and only three stops. The repertoire playable is restricted - eighteenth-century English organ music goes well on it - but it has a charm and character all of its own.

I have played some unsatisfactory instruments, either ones which are poorly maintained or ones where the pipes are located at some distance from the console. In this latter case, there is often a time delay which is very off-putting to the organist.

The organ at Highlands is a fine instrument and quite versatile. It has a good selection of interesting stops and makes a good sound, I believe.

SMC

(More to follow next month)

Puzzle of the Month¹

I'd be surprised if any readers knew that 'presbyterians' was an anagram for 'Britney Spears'. This discovery led me to some other anagrams for you to solve. In each case the anagram points rather neatly to the answer (for which I've given you a clue anyway).

1. Oh man I bat (English cricketer born 1955)
2. Old west action (US actor and director)
3. A rude lass runs (Swiss swimsuit-wearing Bond girl)
4. I am a right death case (titled writer born Torquay 1890)
5. Put on a ravioli act (rotund opera singer)

¹ Solution page 16

From the Archive.

from our Special History Correspondent Andrew Saville

The following notes are summarised from *The History of Highlands*², a 1995 pamphlet of 15 pages written by George Thompson Brake. I have also been reading notes prepared by Rosalie Bryant and have included extracts from her Highlands history album.

The place to begin a history of Highlands Methodist Church is an Ordnance Survey map of 1896. This shows Southend as a relatively small town with Westcliff railway station, (built c. 1895 at its western extremity. Between there and the beginning of Leigh-on-Sea, whose eastern boundary was an unmade track called Woodfield Road, there was no housing. So, it appears, Chalkwell did not exist. The London Road as we know it, was called Leigh Road. Southend and Leigh were entirely separate units until the passing of the Southend-on-Sea Act of 1912, when Leigh and Eastwood were joined with Southend.

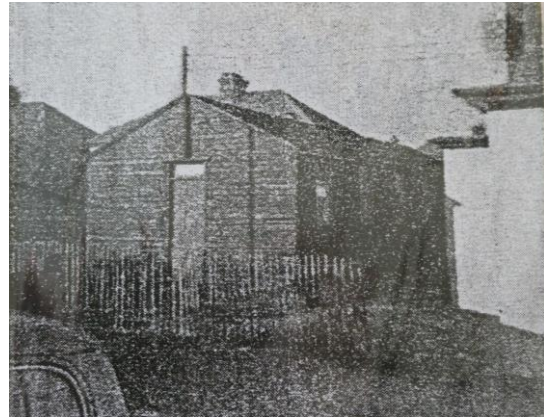
In 1914 Southend became a County Borough. Remarkably the 1896 Ordnance Survey map shows that the Leigh Council had already planned a development north of the Old Town. By contrast the Ordnance Survey map of 1926 shows an astonishing transformation of the area, commonly known at the time as West Leigh.

Running through the area was Highlands Boulevard with 'Southend Boulevard's also clearly featured. Who knows where Southend Boulevard was located? A considerable part of the area had been the property of the Salvation Army, and a covenant preventing the opening of licensed premises had to be observed. Neither was there any provision for a church, on a large estate between St Margaret's in the east and the mission hall of St Barnabas in the west (not the present church of St Barnabas, but its predecessor, severely damaged in WWII. So it was that in 1926 the Southend-on-Sea Methodist circuit was split into two parts, the Southend, and the

² ISBN 1 898881 21 0

Leigh-on-Sea circuits.

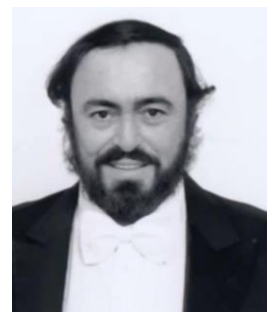
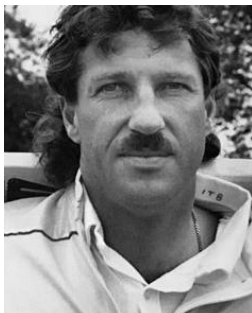
The Highlands estate had been laid out by the council planners. A forward-looking group of members at Wesley Methodist formed a trust. Following a meeting on 11 June 1926, 95 years ago to the month, they managed to secure quite a large plot at the junction of Sutherland Boulevard and Olive Avenue. The trust minute book noted that the neighbourhood was developing so rapidly that the time was ripe for church services to commence. So, the group decided to approach the owner of St David's School Hall (a hut according to some) situated where Nos 59 and 61 Olive Avenue are today, to hold services and a Sunday School.



The hall (or hut) seated 100 people and could be hired for 10s. 6d per hour including the use of a piano, the equivalent to £32.30 per hour today. Yet there was no heating and electricity had still to be installed. The trustees decided to rent the hall for six months at £3 3s per week, equivalent to £193.81 today. On Sunday 31 October 1926 Rev Henry Maddock conducted the first ever Highlands Methodist service. From last month's edition of the *Highlander*, you will note, Rev Maddock became Highlands' minister in 1943.
To be continued.

Puzzle of the Month Solution

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Oh man I bat | = Ian Botham |
| 2. Old west action | = Clint Eastwood |
| 3. A rude lass runs | = Ursula Andress |
| 4. I am a right death case | = Dame Agatha Christie |
| 5. Put on a ravioli act | = Luciano Pavarotti |



Dining In

Easter Blondies

I know that Easter has gone but this recipe will be good at any time. Basically, they are brownies with white chocolate instead of brown.

I wasn't sure at first, a family member had made it and said it was good, so I gave it a try too. Again, I wasn't sure at first, it was a bit gooey and overly sweet, but it was a huge success

with other younger family members and once it had 'matured' for a day, I was a fan too. It was fudgy and moist. I have tried in vain to get more mini eggs so I'll use something similar next time.



Ingredients

225g unsalted butter

100g white chocolate

250g light muscovado sugar

150g caster sugar

3 large eggs

1 tsp vanilla bean paste

325g plain flour

1 tsp baking powder

160g mini chocolate eggs (or equivalent)

Method

Heat oven to 190°C/170°C fan.

Grease and line a 20 x 20 brownie tin

Melt butter and white chocolate, either in the microwave or over a pan of water and stir until smooth. Set aside to cool.

Whisk muscovado and caster sugar with eggs until the mixture is thick and foamy. (I used my food mixer for this step to get it really foamy)

Next, whisk a quarter of the chocolate/butter mix into the eggs and sugar and add the vanilla paste.

Fold the rest of the chocolate/butter into the egg mix and fold in the flour, baking powder, pinch of salt. Continue mixing slowly until it is completely combined.

Roughly chop 100g of mini eggs and fold them into the batter. Pour into tin and press half of remaining mini eggs into the top.

Bake for 45-50 mins. To check if it's done, give the tin a gentle shake. It should be mostly set with slight wobble in the centre. Remove from oven and press remaining mini eggs into the top.

Leave to cool completely in the tin – don't try and get it out before it's really cold as it won't work!! As it cools it'll sink slightly in the middle – that bit will be really moist and fudgy.

Once cold, cut into small squares. It will keep for 4 days in a tin, (although this has never yet been proved).



Jobs for the garden

From our Special Gardening Correspondent

I've been anxiously watching for bees at the end of my garden – I have a greengage and a plum tree, full of blossom, that need pollinating. I've seen just the occasional bee so, to give the best chance of any fruit later this year, I've been out there with my feather duster. I'm not sure if my neighbours read the *Highlander* but if they do, it will explain my mad morning antics. The dancing

around between the 2 trees, waving the feather duster, will all be worth it if I get a good crop.



That set me thinking about pollination – I know that the loss of pollinators is very much a current problem in the news. Much of our food depends on pollination. But it's not just a new problem. Vanilla was originally grown in Mexico and, in the 16th century, some specimens were gifted to the Spanish. It was taken to Mauritius, Tahiti and Madagascar. Now, in South America, the vanilla pods were said to be pollinated by hummingbirds, as well as by bees. But these birds were not around in the new habitats. So, every flower had to be hand pollinated. And that's still the way it's done today.

This is a very labour-intensive activity, which partly explains the very high price of vanilla. The flowers can't self-pollinate, and each flower is only open for a few hours. Only saffron in the spice world is more expensive per kilo, and vanilla is more precious than silver. And I didn't know that vanilla was actually an orchid.

Vanilla is the most widely used flavour in the world and I feel it's such a shame that it's now associated with 'bland' and 'standard'. Vanilla is found in chocolate, custard, ice-cream, cosmetics, perfume and the proper stuff is just wonderful. So next time, you enjoy that wonderful flavour, think about the Madagascan farmers producing this crop. Most of our vanilla comes from there now and it's a hard life.

SGC



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 June 2021 issue should be emailed to andrewghyde@aol.com before Sunday 23 May. No email? Don't despair; just telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.

And Finally...

We're Back! The picture shows a socially-distanced Sunday Morning.

