



# The **HIGHLANDER**


## May 2023

The monthly newsletter of Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh on Sea

These are services for May 2023.

11:00 am Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship Café Church Coronation Lunch	Worship Leaders
11:00 am Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship Communion	Colin Turner
7:00 pm Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	Gospel Service <b>@ The Fishermen's Chapel</b>	Rev Pete Moorhouse
11:00 am Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	Morning Worship	Eileen Simmons
4:00 pm Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	Circuit Service <b>@ Hockley</b>	Rev Pete Moorhouse
11:00 am Sun 28 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship <b>United Service @ Wesley</b>	Pastor Steve Mayo

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

 Highlands (Leigh) Methodist Church  
[www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk](http://www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk)



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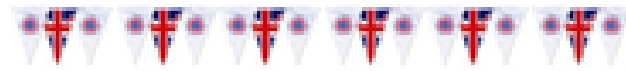
**Highlands Methodist Church  
Hospitality in the Midst of our Community**

All telephone numbers are '01702' unless stated

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Church Flowers	Jean Edmonds	525250
Lettings/Use of Premises	Jean Edmonds	525250

Highlands Methodist Church

# **CORONATION LUNCH**



**SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup> MAY AT 12.30pm**

A BUFFET LUNCH WILL BE SERVED  
FOLLOWING THE MORNING SERVICE  
FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO STAY

Home Cooked Gammon

Coronation Chicken

Quiche (V)

Roll & Butter, New Potatoes, Salad, Bulgar

Fresh Fruit Trifle & Cream

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**SUGGESTED DONATION £5**

**Please sign up in the Jubilee Room by 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

## From Your Minister



Whether you're a royalist or not, the coronation of King Charles III will have an impact on you to some degree. For many it will be the highlight of the year, and they'll be glued to their televisions for the duration of the service. For others it will be an opportunity to get out of the house and visit empty parks and beaches which would normally be packed on a bank holiday weekend.

But whatever you think about royal kings, they have been with us for a long time, and will probably be with us in some form or another, well into the future, both at home and abroad.

Earthly kings have earthly kingdoms. King Charles III is the king of the United Kingdom, and other Commonwealth realms. King Philippe is the king of Belgium. King Felipe VI is the king of Spain, and there are many others. The one thing these monarchs have in common, is that they are restricted, not only by geographical boundaries, but also by the boundaries of time. Kings come and go. Kingdoms rise and fall.

But this is where our God, the King of kings is different. He is not restricted by geographical boundaries or restricted by time. No matter what happens in this earthly realm, and no matter when it happens, our God will always reign forever, and everywhere:

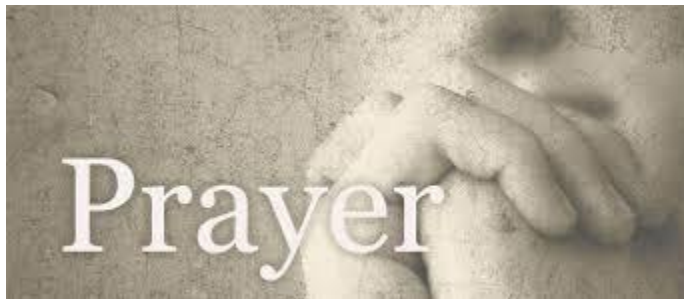
*God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honour and might for ever. Amen. [1 Timothy 6:15b-16 NIVUK]*

So, if we put our faith and trust in God, we will never be let down, never be abandoned, because He goes from...

*...everlasting to everlasting. [Nehemiah 9:5]*

So, if you are finding the rapid speed of our changing world unsettling, even frightening, trust in God, who is a permanence in a changing and uncertain world.

Every blessing,  
**Pastor Steve**, May 2023  
01702 483827  
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* and *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 Kate Bacon née Smith who died after a long illness, peacefully at home with her husband Rob and Daughter Jessica. Kate was very much a part of Highlands in her young days together with her family. She will be so

sadly missed. May she rest in peace.

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**

### **Christian Aid**

Help Dreams Come True.

This year Christian Aid week will be from Sunday 14-20 May.



No mother should have to choose which child to send to school. But Jen, a loving mum in Malawi, dreams of her children being able to have the education they deserve. Her hard-working boys



have earned places at top colleges – but Jen cannot afford to send them both. 'My heart longs to see our children finish school,' says Jen.

Jen is paying the cost of the global crisis. Help Jen turn peas into prospects, so she can grow a happier future. Give today at [caweek.org](http://caweek.org)

Or contribute to our church collection, or at coffee mornings with delicious cake from 10:00 am till 12:00 noon on 13 and 27 May. If you can help in any way with cake donations or delivering and

collecting envelopes to local houses that would be much appreciated.

Contact Jean Edmonds 525250

## **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 lunch. The theme of the day is to be announced

## **Coronation Weekend – 6/7 May**

We propose to open the church on Saturday 6 May from 9:00 am to anyone who wishes to watch on our TV while enjoying coffee, cakes and savouries

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 £5 donation. You must add your name to the list in the Jubilee room. Or call Julie Peek on 479804.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

## **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. Our May meeting will include our annual plant sale, a great way to buy reasonably priced plants for your home or garden!

We hosted a Cake Sale and Coffee Morning on Saturday 15 April and were so pleased to see everyone from the usual Saturday Morning group. Wonderful home-made cakes were available, and a happy, chatty atmosphere made the morning fly by.

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.

## **St Vincent de Paul (SVP)**

SVP (as you may already know) is an international voluntary organisation in the Catholic Church offering material help to the poor or needy.



St Vincent  
de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action

Lesley and Andrew would like to say 'thank you' to those who help us in various ways to provide meals for SVP Westcliff at Short Street.

On five nights a week, Kindness Kitchens provide between 60 and 80 hot meals to those in need of one. Our part in this is taking along 20/30 meals each week, usually on a Saturday night. Then, on a Tuesday night, between 10 and 12 meals go to housebound friends or on the Outreach van.

Our guests are enormously appreciative of the food and we try to make it as tasty as possible. Additionally it must be easy to eat; sadly, many of our guests have missing teeth.



Thank you to everyone in helping make it possible for us to do this.

## **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.



## **Anne Lane...**

...is perfectly well, enjoying retirement, and writes as follows:

*I just wanted to say thank you to the people at Highlands Methodist Church for their support and help over the years that I have been working with the church. This has been since 2005 starting as a Lay Worker and then over the last 11/12 years as the Property Co-ordinator until my retirement at the end of 2022.*

*Thank you to you all for the gift and card I received last Sunday.*

*God Bless, Anne*

# Charity Meal Night

Where ? - @ Zen City  
(Hamlet Court Road SS0 7EW)



*When ?* - 7:30 pm Wednesday 31st May  
2023

*How much ?* - Suggested cost of £20  
per person (with £7.50 going to  
Southend CAP Debt Advice Centre)

*What?* - 2 Course Meal and a  
fundraising auction

Please contact Amanda and Paul Wilson on  
[paul\\_amanda03@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:paul_amanda03@yahoo.co.uk) to book tickets and make  
payment.

**Christians Against Poverty** has been providing free professional debt help through  
local churches throughout the UK since 1996.

Poverty is so much more than going without. It's so much more than lacking materially.  
Poverty destroys lives. It robs people of joy, hope and opportunities. It tears families  
apart, isolates those most in need of support, and leads many to believe there is no  
way out. Before seeking help, 1 in 3 of our clients had considered or attempted suicide.

## **Puzzle of the Month**<sup>1</sup>

Sailing alone on his boat, mid-ocean, Ken must take 1 Alpha pill and 1 Omega pill. To take no pills, or any other combination of pills, would be fatal! He has 2 Alpha pills and 2 Omega pills with him. Unfortunately, the pills are identical in size, shape, taste, smell and colour, and they have got mixed up. (Why does that always happen?)

How can Ken survive by taking exactly 1 Alpha pill and 1 Omega pill?



## **Humour Corner**

Ancient Greek Constable:  
*Eurestes!*

Ancient Greek Felon:  
*Phormos?*

Ancient Greek Constable:  
*Stolos!*

Ancient Greek Felon:  
*Eusorros?*

Ancient Greek Constable:  
*Photios. You came Acropolis this time!*

Ancient Greek Felon:  
*It's a fair Kopolos...*



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<sup>1</sup> Solution page 18

## **From the Editor**

I do try in this column to reflect topical issues and events to a certain degree. As such I cannot ignore the subject of the coronation of King Charles III. This makes things rather difficult because the subject can be quite political. I realise that my audience might include avid royalists and ardent republicans. So, I'll strive not to offend anyone. If nevertheless I fail, any actual offence caused is accidental and collateral.



A few years ago, walking in Snowdonia (I suppose I should call it *Eryri*) I came across a farm in an isolated and beautiful, though wild location not far from Llanbedr. The farmhouse was evidently very old, and not exactly a mansion. Its location spoke of long, hard winters, and a constant struggle for survival, and its bleak

façade contrasted with the grandeur of the Welsh mountains surrounding the valley.

The house was called *Maes y Garnedd* ('the field with cairns'), and I found out later that this humble building was birthplace and home to Colonel John Jones (1597-1660), brother-in-law and staunch supporter of Oliver Cromwell. Now, when Cromwell died and the monarchy was restored, the new king decided to draw a line under the events of the English Civil War that had just ended. This was achieved through an 'Act of Oblivion' that pardoned various crimes and atrocities committed by either side, until 1660. This may seem a little unfair to the victims, but this approach foreshadowed later conflicts looking for a way forward. Think of the Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ireland, and the Truth and Reconciliation

Commission in South Africa. It has a firm Christian background:

*Peter... asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?'*

*Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times [Matthew 18:21-22]*



However, the Act of Oblivion did not cover the 57 signatories of the death warrant of Charles I. These included Colonel Jones, and he was duly arrested, tried, and executed. To this day a number of his descendants live in Wales, England, and USA. Apart from these, Jones is largely forgotten.

Now, here's a tip for book lovers. Browsing charity shops in a really affluent area can bring excellent results. The Red Cross shop in Knutsford, Cheshire sold me for £2 a clearly unread hardback copy of *Act of Oblivion* by Robert Harris, a novel based on the events of 1660 that features Jones's son William as a character. I highly recommend it, even if (unlike me) you have to pay full price for a new copy.

So, does all this have a point? Well, yes. This nation has tried before to replace the monarchy with a different system, and it didn't work out well. The so-called Commonwealth, with Lord Protector Cromwell at its head, lasted only six years. In that time a well-known maxim was proved:

*Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men [Lord Acton]*

Soon after Oliver Cromwell died and was replaced by his son Richard, the system folded. Charles II became king in 1660, and gradually the monarchs that succeeded him accepted the sovereignty of Parliament.

Would it be better to elect someone? Possibly yes. It works for many countries. But in others a President Trump is elected. I go along with this view:

*Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others.* [W S Churchill, quoting a predecessor].



So it is that we anticipate the coronation of another King Charles. He is the third in this regnal line. Like the others he has human imperfections, but Christians will forgive that.

It may well be that at some time in the future, the United Kingdom will become a

Republic, whether United or not. (Interestingly Scotland's largest pro-independence party, the Scottish National Party (SNP), favours retaining the monarchy). Personally, I dislike the presentation of the Royals as a sort of soap opera. I have not watched *The Crown* nor read *Spare*. I'm told that the royal family represents a major asset to our economy through the tourist industry, but that must be hard to measure. Are they, overall, a net contributor or a net cost? Perhaps it doesn't really matter.

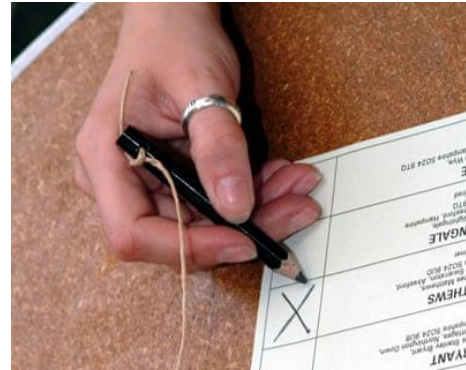
Overall, it seems best to let sleeping corgis lie, and to celebrate and welcome King Charles III. Which we shall do gladly and wholeheartedly, because there is...

*a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,* [Ecclesiastes 3:4 NIV]

Ananias

PS Having mentioned democracy, it's completely pointless if virtually no-one votes. So please use your vote this Thursday.

But remember to take photo ID with you. Your bus pass, or passport, or driving licence will all do).



## Drama

**ODDMENTS THEATRE CO PRESENTS...**

# THE ROAD TO THE CROSS

**"The light shines in the darkness"**

**Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023  
at 7.30 p.m.**

**Rayleigh Methodist Church**  
Eastwood Road, RAYLEIGH SS6 7JP  
*Tickets: £10 in advance £12 at the door*  
Contact: [manager@rayleighmethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:manager@rayleighmethodistchurch.org.uk)

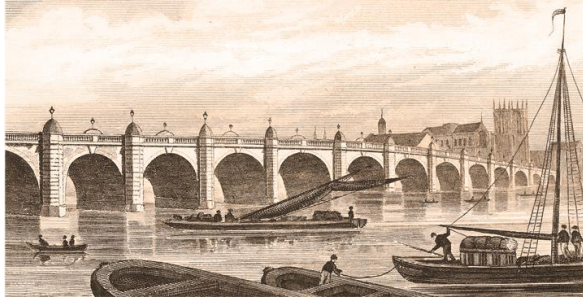
**Tickets available online or from your church**  
[www.oddments-theatre.co.uk](http://www.oddments-theatre.co.uk) / [info@oddments-theatre.co.uk](mailto:info@oddments-theatre.co.uk)

Oddments Theatre Co. are a professional Christian drama group whose work is of a very high standard. I would thoroughly recommend coming along to what will be a challenging and inspiring evening. Because of the graphic nature of some of the scenes, it is suggested that this may not be suitable for children under the age of 12 years.

If you have any queries please use the email address stated or ring Keith Norman on 07779 305 684.

## **Poem of the Month**

This month's selection (by Evelyn Johnson) was anything by William Wordsworth (1770–1850). For springtime there is an obvious choice, but instead of that, we have a sonnet - an appreciation of what was in September 1802 a peaceful early morning in Britain's capital city. The bridge on which the poet stood (shown in the painting) was an



earlier one to the one that now crosses the river.

The underlying message is perhaps that we need to pause and appreciate the beauty and grandeur of what we see every day.

### **Composed upon Westminster Bridge** **William Wordsworth**

Earth has not anything to show more fair:  
Dull would he be of soul who could pass by  
A sight so touching in its majesty:

This City now doth, like a garment, wear  
The beauty of the morning: silent, bare,  
Ships, towers, domes, theatres, and temples lie  
Open unto the fields, and to the sky;  
All bright and glittering in the smokeless air.  
Never did sun more beautifully steep  
In his first splendour, valley, rock, or hill;  
Ne'er saw I, never felt, a calm so deep!

The river glideth at his own sweet will:  
Dear God! the very houses seem asleep;  
And all that mighty heart is lying still!



## Dining In Crispy Baked Gnocchi



A few months ago, I mentioned a recipe for baked gnocchi – here it is. It's one of the quickest and easiest dinners I know and is best made in a metal roasting tin. It works OK in other dishes but to get maximum crunch, you need a metal tin. This recipe serves 2 as a main course.

Gnocchi (literally 'knuckles' in Italian) are typically made from potato, flour and egg. Ready-made gnocchi are found in most supermarkets nowadays. Pronounce it *ni-yok-ee*.

### Ingredients

- 500g gnocchi
- 300g vine tomatoes, cut in 1/8's
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 125g mozzarella, cut in small cubes
- Lge bunch fresh basil
- 40g pine nuts
- Salt
- Black pepper

### Method

- Preheat oven to 220°/200° fan
- Cover gnocchi in a bowl with boiling water. Leave 2 mins, drain.
- Gnocchi placed in roasting tin, coated with oil. Add tomatoes, mozzarella, ½ the basil and salt and pepper to taste. Roast 25 minutes.
- 5 mins before it's done, scatter the pine nuts to toast.
- Immediately before serving, scatter the remaining basil



This recipe is from *The Roasting Tin* by Rukmini Iyer, a cook and bestselling food writer who gave up a career in law to pursue her passion for food, reaching the quarter final of BBC's *Masterchef*. Her ancestry is Indian, but that is only one of many influences on her recipes.

## **Puzzle of the Month Solution**



It's quite a neat solution. You may well have noticed that many pills can be broken in two to give a half dose. So, Ken breaks each pill, and swallows a half. By the time he has done this to all the pills, he has a correct dosage of 1 Alpha and 1 Omega. Don't try this at home though.



## **Annual Church Meeting:18 June**

### **Father's Day: 18 June**

Please note this in your diary. We intend morning service to be a parade service, with an emphasis on the role of parenting. The uniformed organisations will make a particular effort to encourage young people (and their families) to take part. We hope that church members will want to match and welcome them.

After the service, the ACM will take place. More information, hopefully, in the June *Highlander*.

## **Service of Thanksgiving for Jocelyn Greenway**

This will take place on Monday 22 May at 3:00 pm at Wesley. This will be followed by a reception at Leigh Road Baptist Church in Marguerite Drive.

Please do not feel the need to wear black. Everyone is very welcome to attend both. The family really hope to see you all there. If you are able to let Gaye know if you can come it would help for catering purposes.

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

### **Children and Young People**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Contact</b>
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 <sup>2</sup> 7:00 to 9:00 pm	Jacqui Hendle 07961 545037
Toddlers	Mon 9:30 am to 11:30	Ros: 478631 Margaret: 557512

### **Fellowship Groups**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Prayer <sup>3</sup>	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**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Lunch Club	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 12:00	Registration essential

### **Social and Recreational**


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

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<sup>2</sup> Every fortnight

<sup>3</sup> on Zoom

For updated news keep following  
[www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk](http://www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk)

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

Items for the June 2023 issue should be emailed to  
andrewghyde@aol.com before the **deadline of Sunday 21 May**,  
and earlier if possible. No email? Don't despair; just telephone  
473111 to arrange an alternative.

### **A Final Image**

A kestrel hovers above the cliffs near St Ives waiting for  
lunch to appear.

