



# The **HIGHLANDER**


## November 2022

The monthly newsletter of Highlands Methodist  
Church, Leigh on Sea

**These are services for November 2022.**

11:00 am Sun 6 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship Café Church	Worship Leaders
10:45 am Sun 13 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship Remembrance Parade	Sarah McDowall
7:00 pm Sun 13 <sup>th</sup>	Gospel Service @ Fishermen's Chapel	Heather Simmons
11:00 am Sun 20 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship	Sanya Strachan
11:00 am Sun 27 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Advent Communion	Colin Turner



 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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## From Your Minister



I'm really not a big fan of this time of year. The days are getting shorter, the weather colder, trees are losing their leaves and the outlook is pretty bleak as we tumble on towards the shortest day of the year.

I think sometimes life can leave us with very similar feelings; darkness can seem to surround us, and the cold reality of life comes upon us as a harsh winter, sometimes even cutting us to the bone.



But in creation there is a promise of new life. Even as the trees drop their leaves, already we see evidence of new life in the form of fresh buds.

And as we look forward in our lives, we also have a promise of new things to come.

*Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!* [Isaiah 43:18-19a NIVUK]

Here we have the opportunity to either look back at what has been, or to look forward with a freshness to what can be.

As we step out into this new fresh future, we don't step out alone. Jesus

Himself says

*And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.* [Matthew 28:20b NIVUK]



So let us step out in confidence knowing that our Saviour walks with us into a bright, new tomorrow.

Every blessing,  
*Pastor Steve*

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

## **Here It Comes Again**

Take another look at the front cover. In particular the entry for 27 November.

No, you haven't made a mistake. The last Sunday in November is in fact the First in Advent. Christmas is almost upon us, and your stewards are making plans to install a Christmas tree and deciding what services we can share together. So that you can mark your calendars these are the likely Highlands dates you need to note. All these are to be confirmed:



18 December Carol Service 4:00 pm  
24 December Crib Service 5:00 pm  
25 December Morning Worship 10:30 am

Next month's *Highlander* will be a bumper Dec/Jan issue. I'd like you to get involved and submit articles, poems, prayers, memories of Christmasses past. What was the most disastrous celebration ever? – we may as well share it and give everyone a giggle. Even if it's just an idea that could be developed, we'd like to make that happen.

Looking forward to hearing from you...  
Your Stewards



**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.

**Our deepest sympathy** to the friends and family of Peter Tomlin - Sue and Mike, Margaret, Annetta and Steve in particular. Peter died in Brooklands House after a long illness. At Belfairs MC he was a diligent Pastoral Visitor to the end , even when only able to communicate by phone.

We ask your **thoughts and prayers** for those unwell at this moment include

- Tony Downing, now at home.
- Joyce Selman, also now at home and benefitting from help from carers
- Keith and Stella Carter remain in hospital,
- Peggy Gosling still recuperating.
- Hazel Owen is rehabilitating from her stroke at Rochford
- Andrew Saville has continued to make steady progress, helped by a visit from daughter Katie.

Also **support by your prayers** Heather and Emma Stanford

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.

## **From the Editor**

Walking recently on the South Downs in Sussex I found that the autumn wet weather had brought out a spectacular crop of fungi. There was a huge variety of mushrooms, some familiar, some not.



An old joke tells us that 'all mushrooms are edible...but some only once.' The one shown above is called fly agaric. It is easily recognisable by its bright red cap and white spots, and it is indeed poisonous. Some folk eat it nevertheless because it produces intoxication and hallucination. Moreover, death from ingestion of these mushrooms is quite rare, and the toxins can be weakened by boiling and draining. Don't try this at home.

The mushrooms you buy in the shops or markets are perfectly safe to eat. They have been commercially grown on mushroom farms in controlled, sterilised environments. China and Poland are among the world's top producers.

Mushrooms provide a strong example of God's generous bounty of food. They are there for all to share and enjoy, and yet if we abuse or misuse them, through ignorance, perversity or greed, they can hurt us.

I have a friend who sometimes reacts to my moaning and groaning about something going wrong by muttering: 'first-world problem' at me. She is usually right, as well. The inconvenience of my car having a flat battery really ought to make me reflect on how lucky I am to have a car that works



most of the time. As a nation, we should consider a sharp rise in the cost of rice not as our own inconvenience but as a crisis for those who cannot afford it at all. Or a disaster for those who live in a country such as Somalia, beset by drought and famine.

*As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. [1 Tim 6:17 NRSV]*

*Anne*

## **Snippets**

### **Highlands Toddlers**

Thank you to all who supported our harvest thanksgiving. The produce donated was gratefully received at the Food Bank of St. Vincent de Paul.

We hope you enjoyed seeing the Toddlers' work displayed in the Church

### **Chalkwell Park Methodists**

...are having a Remembrance & Thanksgiving service on Sunday 30 October at 10:45 am. An opportunity for those who have experienced the loss of someone they love to come together. All are welcome from the Circuit and beyond.

## **Safeguarding**

Although there are thankfully no concerns at present (our Safeguarding Officer Ros Bryant reports) we all have a duty to keep our knowledge and vigilance at an optimum level. Jenny and Frank attended the recent safeguarding training session for ministers, local preachers and worship leaders and have received their advanced certificates.

It is highly desirable that everyone who uses Highlands should undergo basic training. This would include all church members and non-members who take part in services. It is not necessary for members of organisations such as Scouts who have their own safeguarding framework. A basic course will be held on Monday 5 December from 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm. Please address any queries about this to the Safeguarding Officer.

## **Highlands Hobbies**

We meet this month on Thursdays 3rd and 17th preparing for our Christmas Coffee Morning. We will continue making beautiful Christmas cards, tree decorations and gifts. All are welcome to join us at our meetings and we look forward to seeing you on

- SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER
- HOBBIES SPECIAL CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING
- 10:00 am until 1:00 pm

Jean Edmonds 525250

## **Harvest Thanksgiving**

Thank you to all who came to our Harvest Service to give thanks for all we have and helped us to build a mountain of produce. A special thank you to Phil Mayes and Amanda for delivering it to Short Street Food Bank. It was good to see the return of our Guides and Rangers, well done for winning the quiz! Thanks to Jackie Carter for our delicious Harvest lunch



and to Dave and Sharon and all who helped in any way to make a happy day.

## **Christian Aid**

Thanks have been received for the gift of £65.94 for the East Africa Hunger Crisis Appeal. This enables local partners to deliver lifesaving support to families in desperate need.

Jean Edmonds  
Christian Aid Representative

## **Warm Hub at Wesley**

Warm Hubs or Warm Spaces are places within the local community providing a safe, warm and friendly environment in which to enjoy refreshments, social activity, information and advice and the company of other people.

We plan to open a Warm Hub Space at Wesley from mid-November for two days a week, Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 am- 4:00 pm, using the concourse. We are looking for volunteers to help staff this project. Even if you can only spare an hour or so, this would be most valuable.

Please let Geoff Fulford ([fulford.family@btinternet.com](mailto:fulford.family@btinternet.com)), co-ordinating this project, know if you are able to offer any time to support this new initiative. No particular skills are required but please note you will be required to have a current DBS certificate and to have taken a basic course on Safeguarding.

## **Church Flowers for November**

13 Nov: Mary Mapp in memory of Family  
20 Nov: Dorothy Allen in memory of Family

## **Correspondence**

We wrote to Garfield Weston Foundation on 18 October, thanking them for their grant of £5,000 towards the cost of our

new boiler. We also gave some detail of the uses to which the building is currently put and explained how the enhanced heating controls will enable us to be more comfortable, economical and 'green' in our energy use. They have replied:

*Thank you for your letter and your End of Grant Report.*

*I have uploaded this to your online record and your report will be read with interest by the wider team and Trustees. If we have any questions, we will be in touch to discuss this, otherwise you can take this as confirmation that this closes the reporting requirement.*

*We wish you well with your continued work and look forward to keeping in touch with you*

The practical effect of this is that we have been identified as worthwhile and deserving beneficiaries of this most generous of donors. If necessary, we could apply in the future for further funding for major projects with a degree of confidence.

## **Organ Recitals**

Following his success at St Mary Abchurch, Tim Francis is giving another London organ recital, at St Botolph's without Aldgate [www.stbotolphs.org.uk](http://www.stbotolphs.org.uk), a Georgian church with the oldest (1705) working organ in the UK. It's at 12:30 on Wednesday 30 November, with free entry and voluntary retiring collection.

## **Save the Date**

The following important dates beckon:

Saturday 29 Oct	Quiz Night supporting local Scouting
Sunday 13 Nov	Remembrance with Sarah McDowall
Friday 16 Dec	Serving the Homeless Carol Service



## **Jobs for the Garden** **From our Special Gardening Correspondent**

We all know and love our nearest RHS garden, Hyde Hall (looking fabulous at the time writing) but I was fascinated to look back and learn more of its history. Many of us will have watched it grow under the responsibility of the RHS - they took it over in 1993. But what about earlier?

In 1955 Dr and Mrs Robinson moved to Hyde Hall Farm with plans to improve and expand the arable operations. It was nearly 400 acres with a farmhouse, 2 fishponds, various outbuildings and an ancient, thatched barn.



The current house, dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, is a typical Essex farmhouse of timber frame, lath and plaster. Records

show a dwelling on this site at least as far back as Tudor times. At the back of the house, Mrs Robinson discovered the Tudor brick floor of an old stable under a pile of old household rubbish and soil. This was excavated to become a natural pavement garden.

For centuries it had been a working farm and the area around the house was a dumping ground for all kinds of rubbish. Mrs Robinson started to garden as a reaction against this and as she cleared areas around the house, planting with anything available. Thus, she created herbaceous borders and a vegetable garden close to the house and established the framework of the garden with some 60 young trees bought at an auction sale in Wickford Market.



If they had known then what they soon learned, it is very doubtful that the garden would have been made! The growing conditions were and still are extremely challenging. The site was cold and windy, the top of the hill was covered in gravel and the soil on the slopes was a sticky heavy clay that drained poorly in winter and became as hard as concrete in summer (just like our gardens round

here, I hear you say). And it is very, very dry; the average annual rainfall is lower than any of Jerusalem, Rabat, Tunis or Beirut.

Clearing the land around the house was arduous and time-consuming work but, with some help from the pigs, they cleared rubbish, brambles and scrub, eventually improving the sticky, clay soil with quantities of animal manure and mushroom and bark compost. Again, a lesson for us here to keep improving our clay soils.



The Robinsons continued to expand their garden and Helen became a regular at RHS London flower shows. They acquired increasing collections of plants and the knowledge to grow them. Roses were an early success, one of the few plants that liked the growing conditions, but they failed spectacularly with their attempts to grow Himalayan woodland plants!

Looking to the future, they set up the Hyde Hall Garden Trust in 1976 and in 1993, the Trust gave the gardens to the RHS to ensure its future survival.

## **Humour Corner**

Restaurant customer:

*Waiter, I'd like a bottle of Châteauneuf du Pape, please*

Waiter:

*Certainly, sir, what year?*

Customer:

*Well, I'd like it right now.*

## **Dining In – Mushroom Stroganoff**



If like us you have family members who are vegetarian, feeding everyone together can be difficult. Not that I object to veggies – they score well on both ethical and health grounds – but you sometimes you just can't please everybody. This ticks lots of boxes however – fairly economical, quite easy, seasonal and tasty (but not 'vegan'). The name 'Stroganoff' by the way comes from an aristocratic and once fabulously rich Russian family. They skedaddled out of Russia in 1917 so can't really be blamed for the current hostilities.

### **Ingredients**

(serves 2)

2 tsp olive oil	1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce (or veggie alternative)
1 onion finely chopped	3 tbsp ½-fat soured cream
1 tbsp sweet paprika	Handful parsley, chopped
2 garlic cloves chopped	250g pouch cooked wild rice
300g mixed mushrooms	
150ml beef/vegetable stock	

### **Method**

- Heat oil and soften onions for 5 mins
- Add paprika and garlic and cook for 1 further minute
- Add the mushrooms and cook on high heat, stirring
- Add the stock and Worcestershire
- Boil and bubble for 5 mins until the sauce thickens, then turn off.
- Stir the soured cream and parsley – don't leave it on the heat other wise the sauce can split
- Heat the rice as per instruction and stir through to serve

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

B	E	L	I	E	V	E	T	H	Y	D	M
U	Q	I	O	W	Z	X	H	K	S	O	N
T	B	F	L	V	T	Y	A	Z	Z	G	W
F	N	E	G	H	E	J	T	K	N	L	H
P	O	N	L	Y	N	D	P	I	M	K	O
E	T	E	X	B	N	A	T	X	H	I	S
R	Q	T	K	J	B	S	O	T	Q	T	O
I	W	T	R	T	A	Y	V	H	A	V	E
S	H	O	U	L	D	L	L	A	P	S	V
H	S	G	R	G	X	Y	M	T	S	H	E
Q	F	E	A	B	T	W	K	K	F	W	R
A	V	B	L	V	H	I	M	P	O	Y	U
E	X	I	N	C	E	G	W	O	R	L	D

This is a conventional word search, but the words you are looking for will make up a well-known verse from the New Testament (King James version). As you find the words, fit them in below to make up the verse. I've put a few words in just to get you started.

\_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / S O / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ /  
 \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / H I S / \_\_\_ /  
 \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / T H A T / \_\_\_ /  
 \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / N O T /  
 \_\_\_ / B U T / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ /  
 \_\_\_ /

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<sup>1</sup> Solution page 18

## Poem of the Month



This month's poem, selected by Jennifer is 'Hiawatha' by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882) a university professor and poet from New England who had descent from the *Mayflower* pilgrims. Hence, I have preserved his US spellings.

Hiawatha is an epic poem running to 22 chapters, of which Chapter 10 (for example) has 1,593 words. So, it would be impossible here to include the whole work. But the story so far is that Hiawatha, a warrior whose father was the West Wind, has fallen in love with

Minnehaha ('Laughing Water') of the Dakota tribe whose beauty was famed. He performs great deeds (slaying an evil magician, inventing written language, discovering corn, to name but three) but eventually heads home with his bride. There we pick up the story.

What happens next? No spoilers here. You'll have to read the whole poem (out loud, preferably).

### **Extract from Chapter X, Hiawatha (Hiawatha's Wooing) H W Longfellow**

Pleasant was the journey homeward!  
All the birds sang loud and sweetly  
Songs of happiness and heart's-ease;  
Sang the bluebird, the Owaissa,  
"Happy are you, Hiawatha,  
Having such a wife to love you!"  
Sang the robin, the Opechee,  
"Happy are you, Laughing Water,  
Having such a noble husband!"



From the sky the sun benignant  
Looked upon them through the branches,  
Saying to them, "O my children,  
Love is sunshine, hate is shadow,  
Life is checkered shade and sunshine,  
Rule by love, O Hiawatha!"



From the sky the moon looked at  
them,  
Filled the lodge with mystic  
splendors,  
Whispered to them, "O my  
children,  
Day is restless, night is quiet,  
Man imperious, woman feeble;  
Half is mine, although I follow;  
Rule by patience, Laughing Water!"

Thus it was they journeyed homeward;  
Thus it was that Hiawatha  
To the lodge of old Nokomis  
Brought the moonlight, starlight, firelight,  
Brought the sunshine of his people,  
Minnehaha, Laughing Water,  
Handsomest of all the women  
In the land of the Dacotahs,  
In the land of handsome women.

## **Humour Corner**

Telephone caller to the church office:

*Tell me – is it true that the famous film star Hugh Jeego is a regular worshipper at your church? And will he be there this Sunday?*

Minister:

*I'm afraid I couldn't promise that, madam. We do have God here every week and we rather rely on Him to pull in a crowd.*

## Puzzle of the Month Solution

B	E	L	I	E	V	E	T	H	Y	D	M
U	Q	I	O	W	Z	X	H	K	S	O	N
T	B	F	L	V	T	Y	A	Z	Z	G	W
F	N	E	G	H	E	J	T	K	N	L	H
P	O	N	L	Y	N	D	P	I	M	K	O
E	T	E	X	B	N	A	T	X	H	I	S
R	Q	T	K	J	B	S	O	T	Q	T	O
I	W	T	R	T	A	Y	V	H	A	V	E
S	H	O	U	L	D	L	L	A	P	S	V
H	S	G	R	G	X	Y	M	T	S	H	E
Q	F	E	A	B	T	W	K	K	F	W	R
A	V	B	L	V	H	I	M	P	O	Y	U
E	X	I	N	C	E	G	W	O	R	L	D

Above is the full solution (which may not be the only correct version). The verse should of course read:

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16 KJV)*

### **Humour Corner**

Seafood restaurant customer:  
*I'd like a lobster tail to start with, please.*

Waiter:  
*Certainly, sir: "Once upon a time there was a handsome young lobster called Gerald..."*



## **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 <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**

Group	Time	Contact
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**

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

### **Social and Recreational**


Group	Time	Contact
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 Christmas/New Year 2022 issue should be emailed to  
andrewghyde@aol.com before the **deadline of Sunday 20  
November**, and earlier if possible. No email? Don't despair; just  
telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.

## **A Final Image**

A misty morning in Worcestershire

