



The **HIGHLANDER**


October 2022

The monthly newsletter of Highlands Methodist
Church, Leigh on Sea

These are services for October 2022.

11:00 am Sun 2nd	Morning Worship Café Church	Worship Leaders
11:00 am Sun 9 th	Morning Worship Communion	Rev Norman Hooks
11:00 am Sun 16 th	Morning Worship	Eileen Simmons
11:00 am Sun 23 rd	Morning Worship Harvest Festival	Pastor Steve Mayo
11:00 am Sun 30 th	Morning Worship US at Belfairs	Pastor Steve Mayo



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

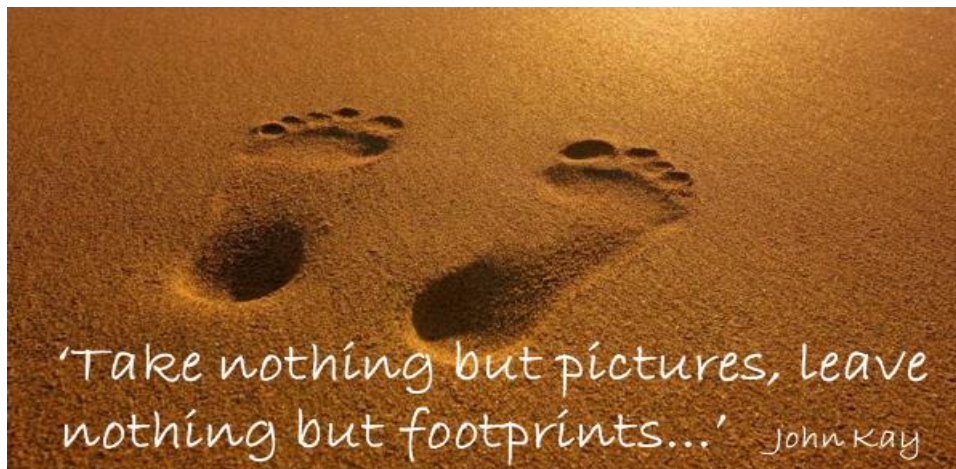
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**Highlands Methodist Church
Hospitality in the Midst of our Community**

All telephone numbers are '01702' unless stated

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From Your Minister



When I started thinking about using 'footprints' as a theme for this letter, I had feet in mind, but by far the biggest hit on the internet about footprints was about our carbon footprint, the damage that we do to our world through pollution etc.

Then that got me thinking about what we do with our lives whilst we're here, living on earth, and that quote from a song by John Kay,

'take nothing but pictures leave nothing but footprints,'

kept running through my mind, so I started thinking about it a bit more... 'take nothing but pictures...'

I know what the writer of those words is getting at. He means, I think, that we shouldn't pick flowers etc in a way that would spoil things for others following us.

But how many of us only take pictures of life without really getting involved in what's happening before us, watching life stream past us like rain running down a windowpane?

A Christian author, Anne Long, describes time as being measured not only in length, but also in depth. And she's right. It's not just about the length of time we spend here on earth, it's also about the depth of time. In other words, the quality of what we do whilst we're here that also counts; the depth of our experiences, the depth of our relationships.

Do our footprints of life go off into the distance in a straight line? Or do they meander, touching and experiencing life to the full? Because that's why Jesus said He came to earth; to bring us life and life to the full! He said in

'I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.' [John 10:10 The Message]

Are you living your life in 2 dimensions when you could be living in 3 dimensions? We shouldn't just be on-lookers of life, but active participants.

And what about the second part of the quote...
'leave nothing but footprints?'

Are footprints all we leave? Is not the way we behave and the way we treat others more lasting than footprints? What's going to be your legacy to the earth and to others?



Hopefully, when we look back over our lives, it won't just be footprints we see, but remnants of a good life led, a life of encouragement, generosity, goodness and love.

But maybe, as you think of your past, you've left not only footprints, but also a legacy of hurt, despair and pain?

Well, you can change that too. Because if we correct our present, then that will change our futures, and consequently, our pasts in that future!

So how do we change?

We change by walking with Jesus. By following in His footsteps, by copying His example of how we should live and how we should

interact with others as we journey through life.

And the closer we walk with Jesus; the fuller life will be!

There is an old Jewish blessing that says
'May you be covered by the dust of your Rabbi.'

So, the image here is of us, His followers, walking so close behind Jesus that we become covered in the dust that His sandals kick up. Now that's following closely!

So, don't just skim through life, realise the depth of time, as well as the length. Follow Jesus closely, and you will live life to the full!



Every blessing,

Pastor Steve
01702 483827
pastorstevemayo@gmail.com

Humour Corner

Bank robber:
OK – give me all the money you've got, or you're biology.

Bank clerk:
Surely you mean that I'm history?

Bank robber:
Don't try to change the subject!





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 Heather Stanford, Emma, Andrew and family on the loss of her husband Andy, who died suddenly and unexpectedly on 19 August

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

- Tony Downing, now rallying a little and back on the ward.
- Joyce Selman after a fall in her flat
- Keith and Stella Carter on different wards,
- Peggy Gosling recovering from a hip operation and hoping to go home with care.
- Hazel Owen back in hospital after another stroke.

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.

Humour Corner

Builder 1:

Please give me a hand here. I just fell off a 50ft ladder

Builder 2:

Oh my goodness! I'll call an ambulance.

Builder 1:

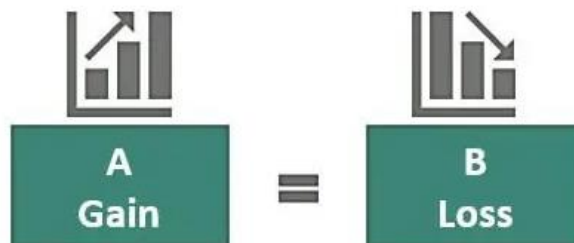
Nah, don't worry. Luckily, I fell off the first step.

From the Editor

As I write this, the official period of mourning for HM Queen Elizabeth II is over. I don't intend to load this issue with royal references, but the exception is the Simon Armitage poem on page 15. I think that this easily earns its place just on its merits as a poem, and I hope that you will agree.

As usual, the news rolls over from one unhappy event to another. The topic of the moment is the struggle to get the economy on an even keel. There is an inevitable link to politics, and we don't do politics here, so economics is best avoided.

However, I wonder whether you know the expression 'a zero-sum game'. If not, good for you, because it originates in the world of gambling. Taking a game of poker as an example, every penny that you win in a session of poker is matched by a penny that someone else loses. If, at the end of a session of poker, you were to add up all the wins and losses by all the players in the game, the grand total would be – nothing! It is literally a zero-sum game.



Now, the theory of zero-sum also prevails in the stock market and in the more exotic worlds of currency dealing, financial instruments, futures contracts and options. But does it apply to the wider world? Does this apply to the whole of the economy? Is one person's profit always destined to be another's loss?

The answer is no, not necessarily. It all depends on how we acquire our wealth, and what we use it for. Firstly, if we gain wealth through dishonesty and immorality, we deplete not just our victim but also ourselves. Jesus put it very succinctly:

What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? [Mark 8:36 KJV]

So, not just a zero-sum game. This is a lose-lose.

By contrast, if we use our wealth wisely, be it a large fortune or a widow's mite [Mark 12:41-44], we can create a win-win. But there is one more requirement:

If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. [1 Corinthians 13:3 NIV UK]

This is a really tough challenge – giving away everything without a care, and without anything in return. So, don't immediately 'go for broke'. Try it first with a generous gift this Harvest Festival and see how it turns out. You can find out about the gifts that might be most appreciated on page 9.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anarca". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized, with a large initial 'A'.

Snippets

Thanks

Pat Mc Dermott would like to thank Hobbies, Showstoppers and all her friends for the Coffee Morning on 27 August. It was a lovely surprise.

Sam Monaghan sends his thanks for the donation of £150 in memory of Julia from friends of Highlands. It will go towards bursaries to help young people in care, many of whom are from migrant families. Julia was on the board of Family Works Fostering.

Harvest Festival – 23 October

Pastor Steve will lead the Highlands Family Harvest Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 23 October. All are welcome to a buffet lunch that will follow in the church, catered by Jackie Carter and friends.

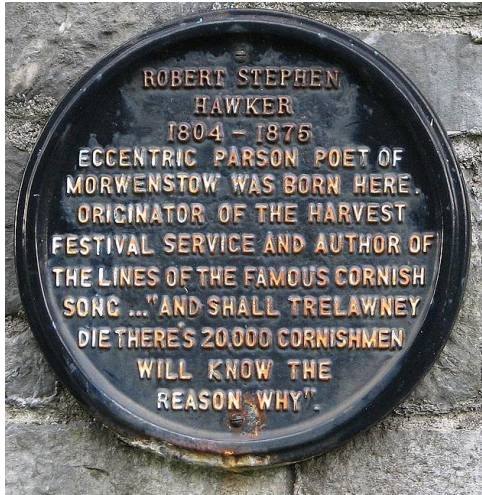


We aim to build a mountain of produce to go to the Food Bank of St Vincent de Paul where Andrew and Lesley are desperately trying to help fill the shelves. We would love to see everybody at our Thanksgiving Service with a theme of 'give thanks and share'.

Gifts may be brought to the church a week before our Harvest and placed in a hamper in the Jubilee room. Gifts can also be brought to our Coffee morning when decoration will take place, and of course on our Harvest Sunday. Now, the graphic above shows a traditional image of Harvest. But that's not quite what the Food Bank requires. Here is a list of gift suggestions:

Tinned meat/fish
Big soup
Tinned pasta + sausages
Tinned fruit
Cereal
Granulated sugar

Tea bags
Instant coffee
Long life milk
Loo rolls
Washing powder



Harvest Festival Trivia: the revival of Harvest Festivals in 1843 is widely credited to Robert Stephen Hawker (1804-1875), poet and vicar of Morwenstow, Cornwall. Hawker liked to write his sermons in a lonely clifftop hut (still there today) fortified against the Atlantic by the odd pipe of opium. The plaque shown here is in Plymouth.

Highlands Hobbies

All are welcome to join our Hobbies group on Thursday 6 October when we plan to do stitch-craft, making Lanterns and Fairy cards also vellum cards, all with a Christmas theme. On Thursday 20 we plan to do Flowers for Harvest led by Margaret and Christmas Découpage with Marjorie. We meet in Room 1 from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon.

Jean Edmonds 525250

Serving the Homeless

The Flower Display at Our Lady of Lourdes was well supported, and we await to hear how much was raised.

Our next fundraising event is on **Saturday 8 October @ St Margaret's** Church Hall, when the Pipe of Port (Wine Merchant & Dining Rooms) presents a Wine Tasting Evening for which tickets are now available.

There will also be a Christmas raffle when you have a further chance to win a fantastic prize. The draw is scheduled to take place on 5 December.

Thank you all for your prayers and support during these difficult times.

Frank

Church Flowers for September

9 Sep: Donated by Sylvia in memory of Ellie

Kathy Burrell

A Thanksgiving Service for Kathy's life will take place at Thundersley Methodist Church at 3:30 pm on Tuesday 4 October. All are welcome but for those unable to attend, the service will be available on Zoom & the link can be provided by contacting Paul Massey on pandkmassey@outlook.com or by text/phone on 07970 492840.

If you would like to donate in lieu of flowers, there will be a box for monetary gifts for Thundersley Methodist Church, for a tribute for Kathy. To donate by bank transfer, please use sort code 40 09 17 and account number 81465902 and enter the reference 'K Burrell'.

Organ Recitals

1. If you fancy a day in town, our own Tim Francis is giving an organ recital at St Mary Abchurch, City of London, one of Sir Christopher Wren's finest parish churches. It's at 12:30 on Tuesday 4 October, with free entry and voluntary retiring collection.
2. Also, Rayleigh Holy Trinity Church is hosting a recital by Anna Lapwood at 2:30 pm on 22 October, celebrating the church's installation of a new organ. Tickets £15 from the church office or www.parishofrayleigh.org.uk/events

Save the Date

The following important dates beckon:

Sunday 23 Oct	Harvest Festival with Pastor Steve
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

So, the rain came, and things are looking greener. However, the drought isn't over yet as this recent picture of Hanningfield reservoir shows, so you'll need to keep on with water saving for a while yet. I think that God may reward you with the occasion free watering session. Meanwhile you'll be wondering what to do with all the produce you've grown!



Storage, of course, is the name of the game. Some crops, potatoes for example, can be dug up now and enjoyed with Christmas dinner. Lift them carefully on a dry sunny day and dry the skins in the sunshine. Do not wash them. When dried, pack them in a hessian sack and store them in a dark dry place, away from frost.

Other classic autumn crops like pumpkins, squashes, apples and pears can be harvested, wrapped in paper and stored with stalks cut to 5 cm. Layer most root veg (carrots, beetroot) in damp compost or sand But leave crops like leeks, kale and parsnips in the ground. Peas, beans and chillies can be hung up to dry then stored in airtight jars.

Don't forget to take advantage of free fruit. Blackberries seemed to ripen early this year but were tasteless. The ones that are still there are sweet. You might also find damsons if you're lucky. And of course, sloes (the fruit of the blackthorn) are in their usual abundance. As Methodists, of course, we have very little use for these astringent little fruits...

Here's an idea if you've got herbs like parsley or mint. Chop them up finely and freeze them in ice cubes!

I have left tomatoes until last. If green, they will usually ripen if picked and left on a windowsill. If this proves unsuccessful, try making chutney with them. A recipe follows...

Dining In – Elsie's Orange & Tomato Chutney



Elsie's Chutney is so named after the old lady (who died some years ago) who gave it to us. We've found that it lasts very well indeed. But only if you resist eating it.

The only technique you might need, if you have never made jam, is that of the finger test.

Pour a little of your mix on to a cold saucer. Wait a moment then

Push your finger through the mix. You're looking for it to wrinkle and not flood back in to fill the gap.

Ingredients

- 2lb (900g) green tomatoes
- 1½ lb (680g) sugar
- ½ pt (280 ml) tarragon vinegar
- 2 large oranges
- 2 pieces stem ginger

Method

- Skin tomatoes and boil for 5 mins
- Dissolve sugar in the vinegar and add to the tomatoes

- Remove the peel and the pith from the orange (the orange zest can live to fight another day in the freezer)
- Put everything through the blender
- Boil for one hour with at least 10 minutes of 'roller boil' , adding a knob of butter to prevent scum
- Apply finger test to see if it's done¹

Puzzle of the Month²

Sagrada Familia

This puzzle comes from real life. The image below can be found carved on the West façade (known as the Passion Façade) of the *Basílica de la Sagrada Família*, designed by Antóni Gaudí. This is the most famous building in Barcelona, arguably in Spain. It has 3 million visitors, every year, often forming queues back to the Metro station But what makes the image so special?



Add up the numbers in any row. Try the same with any column. The answer will be the same - 33.

The number 33 was chosen as the age of Jesus Christ at the time of his death (according to Luke 3:23, John 2:13 and 6:4, Mark 14:17).

Now here is your challenge. How many

ways can you find to add up to 33 using four numbers in any sort of pattern from this image?

¹ Brenda would be very happy to deal with any spare green tomatoes

² Solution page 16

Poem of the Month

Sometimes I need to twist people's arm (figuratively speaking of course) in order to extract a favourite poem. Sometimes however the choice is so obvious that even I can't miss it. This is such an occasion.

Simon Armitage, born 1963 in Huddersfield, is since January 2022 the Poet Laureate, following in the footsteps of poets such as Dryden, Wordsworth, Tennyson and Betjeman. My trivia department informs me that originally the remuneration for the post included 'a butt of Canary wine' but this was discontinued. Betjeman



however revived the practice. Wine being regrettably no longer sold by the butt (barrel), Betjeman converted the allowance to 720 bottles of sherry. I fancy that trifle was a popular pudding in his house.

The poem of course commemorates the late Queen Elizabeth II.

Floral Tribute

Simon Armitage CBE (Poet Laureate)

Evening will come, however determined the late afternoon,
Limes and oaks in their last green flush, pearled in September mist.
I have conjured a lily to light these hours, a token of thanks,
Zones and auras of soft glare framing the brilliant globes.
A promise made and kept for life - that was your gift -
Because of which, here is a gift in return, glovewort to some,
Each shining bonnet guarded by stern lance-like leaves.

The country loaded its whole self into your slender hands,
Hands that can rest, now, relieved of a century's weight.

Evening has come. Rain on the black lochs and dark Munros.
Lily of the Valley, a namesake almost, a favourite flower
Interlaced with your famous bouquets, the restrained
Zeal and forceful grace of its lanterns, each inflorescence
A silent bell disguising a singular voice. A blurred new day
Breaks uncrowned on remote peaks and public parks, and
Everything turns on these luminous petals and deep roots,
This lily that thrives between spire and tree, whose brightness
Holds and glows beyond the life and border of its bloom.

Puzzle of the Month Solution



The first few are quite easy:

- 4 rows
- 4 columns
- 2 full diagonals
- 2 broken diagonals
- 1 set of four corner-squares
- 1 central four squares (7-6-10-10)
- 4 square groups (as if you'd cut the square

into four pieces) for example 1-14-11-7 at top-left

More difficult, you can find four chessboard combinations (1-14-8-10 for example) and two very special ones in the shape of the cross (14-11-6-2 and 14-7-9-3).

The official answer to the puzzle is that the square has a total of 310 combinations of four numbers that add up to 33. But award yourself a point if you got as far as 18. Anything above that is bonus points!



The **Methodist** Church

RECHARGE | REFRESH
Circuit Prayer Day

Rayleigh Methodist
29th October, 10am–2pm
Soup Lunch Provided
Come and be refreshed

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 ⁴	Tue 9:00 to 10:00 am	Andrew Hyde 473111
Chatter	Tue 10:00 am to 12:00 noon	Jean Edmonds 525250

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

⁴ 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 November 2022 issue should be emailed to
andrewghyde@aol.com before the **deadline of Sunday 23
October**, and earlier if possible. No email? Don't despair; just
telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.

A Final Image



This is from a series depicting the story of the prodigal son, in the
Museum of Stained Glass in Ely Cathedral

HIGHLANDS
**HARVEST
THANKSGIVING**



FAMILY SERVICE
SUNDAY 23RD OCTOBER AT 11.00AM

GIVE THANKS AND SHARE



**All gifts of much needed produce will be taken to SHORT
STREET FOOD BANK**

**A BUFFET LUNCH WILL BE SERVED
FOLLOWING THE SERVICE
FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO STAY
ALL ARE WELCOME**