



The **HIGHLANDER**


October 2023

The monthly newsletter of Highlands Methodist
Church, Leigh on Sea

These are services at Highlands for October 2023.

11:00 am Sun 1 st	Morning Worship Café Church	Worship Leaders
11:00 am Sun 8 th	Morning Worship	Maureen Gutteridge
11:00 am Sun 15 th	Morning Worship Communion	Rev Heather Simmons
11:00 am Sun 22 nd	Morning Worship Church Anniversary	Rev Heather Simmons
11:00 am Sun 29 th	Morning Worship United Service at Belfairs	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



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.

These are services at The Fishermen’s Chapel (TFC) for October 2023.

09:30 am Sun 1 st	Morning Worship Communion	Rev Heather Simmons
11:00 am Sun 8 th	Morning Worship Harvest Festival	Rev Heather Simmons
7:00 pm* Sun 8 th *for 7:30	Gospel Service	Rev Heather Simmons
5:00 pm Sun 15 th	Anchored	
11:00 am Sun 29 th	Morning Worship United Sce at Belfairs	Pastor Steve Mayo
7:00 pm Sun 29 th	Mindfulness	

Editor’s Note

I have decided to include details of TFC services for no other reason than that readers of *Highlander* might be interested to know what’s going on down at our sister church. Some of the services might be unfamiliar. I’ll not spend too much time explaining the Gospel service – it does what it says on the tin. If you’ve never tried a Gospel service I strongly recommend it.

‘*Anchored*’ will be a new name for many of you. It is an exploration of Christian faith through creative activities, asking questions, practical action, film, food, and anything else we think of. Typically, we’ll read the Bible together (nothing too lengthy), have a chat and a chance to ask questions, and Eleanor will lead us in creative prayer. There are also rumours (unsubstantiated) of posh biscuits. Anchored is suitable for all ages.

Next month I’ll hopefully have someone explain *Mindfulness*.



Highlands Methodist Church

Hospitality in the Midst of our Community

All telephone numbers are '01702' unless stated

Minister	Rev Heather Simmons heather.simmons@methodist.org.uk	07879 232231
Secretary to Church Council	Patrick Smith (minutes Secretary Margaret Wood)	557702 (557512)
Church Stewards	Andrew Hyde Donald Mayes Andreas Botzios (also Web Editor) Lesley Hyde	473111 473787 479476 473111
Worship Leaders	Jean Edmonds Jennifer Courtenay Frank Edmonds	525250 556140 525250
Church Treasurer	Steve Watson	07543 905641
Children's Worker	Ros Bryant	478631
Pastoral Co-ordinator	Jean Edmonds	525250
Church Flowers	Jean Edmonds	525250
Lettings/Use of Premises	Jean Edmonds	525250

From Your Minister

Dear Church family,



This has been a time of great privilege for me this summer. After finishing college as a student, I was able to take time to have a holiday in France with my husband Dave and a few days at Center-Parcs with my daughter and my sister's family,

whooshing down water slides at great speed (not really my thing but I was trying to be brave). I was also very fortunate to go to Greenbelt Festival where The Fishermen's Chapel Gospel Choir performed. The festival was inspirational, I was able to hear Gordon Brown speak, to join in with many discussions on social justice and climate change and hear some wonderful music. I also spent many hours preparing for becoming a probationer minister. I knew that the minute I started I would have services and meetings to lead and there would be a great deal of reading. I wasn't wrong!



My journey with you started in a fabulous way with my Welcome Service, it was so joyful and deeply meaningful. Thank you again to all who took part in preparing the church and the service.

Already I have had the delight of meeting with many of you in church services and at the Tuesday Chatter lunch. I have spent the morning with the Highland Toddlers and been to speak to many of our uniformed groups. What incredible mission happens at Highlands!

All these things, and more, have been real blessings. In a time of worry about rising costs, climate crisis, wars, church decline and Covid still an issue, I have sought to feel grateful for the blessings in my life.

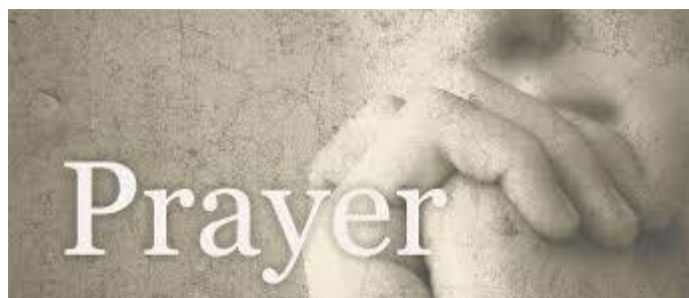


God blesses us all with the opportunity to serve and be Christ-like, whether in joyful times or times of sadness and pressure. It is only something we can try and do our best with, for none of us are perfect. Certainly not me! This 'trying' can bring purpose, comfort and a much-needed smile in our Christian daily living.

I pray for all of us, as Autumn starts to fall, that we can reflect on our summer and see what we can be thankful for. One person I know we are all thankful for is Pastor Steve and his legacy of fun and faithful giving. I hope that I can honour his time with you by building on his ministry and bringing my gifts to supplement that work.

God bless you all,
Revd Heather (Rev Hev!) x





We pray for our friends who are ill, housebound, or bereaved and for those in residential care: particularly *Sheena Hunter* in *Westerley Methodist Care Home*. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families.

We **pray especially for** a number of church members afflicted by long-term illnesses and short-term accidents; may God grant in each case a speedy recovery.

Congratulations go to Mollie Cheney on her recent birthday. More on page 8

We pray that help and recovery will come to the people of Morocco and Libya after the natural disasters that have caused so much loss and grief in those countries.

As always, we **pray for the people of Ukraine**, wherever they find themselves, and for a just and lasting peace in their homeland.



Snippets

Highlands Toddlers

Calling all 'little people' (up to school age) with their adult carers to join our friendly group on Monday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 am. Price remains £3 per child, £4 per family, which includes refreshments – a bargain! Come and enjoy meeting old friends and making new ones. Further details on our website:

www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk

or contact Ros (478631) or Margaret (557512).

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. 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.



Hobbies.

On Thursday 5 October we look forward to Sandy introducing us to the basics of Quilting. Then on 19 October we plan to get our heads down and produce beautiful Christmas cards and Tree Decorations, ready for our Hobbies Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 2 December.

All are welcome to join us
Jean Edmonds 525250

Church Flowers for October.

Flowers will be donated for services

† on 22 October by Sylvia Cornwell in memory of Ellie

Mollie Cheney

99 Not Out! That's Mollie the oldest member of our Highlands family. Mollie celebrated her 99th Birthday on 24 August with her family.

A regular Church attender when younger, she now lives in Thundersley. She used to drive herself to church, and then in her 80s, when she could no longer drive, she caught the bus. One little job she undertook was to wash the tea towels and bring them back nicely pressed. She was always there, looking so smart that no one would have guessed her age. In fact, when she was well into her 80s she was asked if she would like to be a steward.

I've been her pastoral visitor for many years and we have developed a good friendship. Mollie would often make a cake especially for me when I visited. Both Julia Monaghan and Norman Hooks visited her with me to give her Communion. Mollie is very deaf now, so we communicate by text. Mollie needs a lot more care now, but she will be pleased that we remember her when she reads her Highlander.

Maureen

Serving the Homeless

After 33 years we have finally decided that it is the right time to close down our 'Serving the Homeless' ecumenical charity, due to the age and health of many of our committee members. It is with

regret, but also with a sense of pride in what we have been able to achieve over the years, that we do so.

To work together, as Christian Churches in Leigh, in order to bring much needed support to the most vulnerable in society, has been a privilege. We are however delighted that there are now so many other organisations in the area that will carry on working to alleviate homelessness.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported us over the years with your donations, 200 club membership, attendance at events and prayers and encouragement. Our final event will be our Carol Service at Our Lady of Lourdes Church on Friday 15 December at 7pm. We would love to see as many of you as possible come to join us to celebrate the work of StH. We also welcome you to join us afterwards for mulled wine and mince pies in the Parish Centre.

Thank you all for your prayers and support over the years.

At Highlands we will continue to support the various groups and agencies which offer many types of assistance to the vulnerable on the streets.

Frank

Humour Corner

So far today, Lord, I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish or overindulgent, for which I am very thankful. However, in a few minutes' time I am going to get out of bed. From then on am probably going to need a lot more help...

Message from a Younger Member

To all my very dear friends at Highlands,
As it will be my 60th Birthday in October, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all my very dear wonderful friends at Highlands for their love, kindness, support, friendship, guidance & help over my 60 years. Some have known me since I was a baby! 🤝



Much love to you all.

Heather (Stanford - nee Garrood!). X

Macmillan Coffee Morning

So many thanks to all who contributed and supported our Coffee Morning raising a generous sum of £164.11. Yum!

Highlands Lunch Club

A big (I mean REALLY big) word of thanks and congratulations to Julie and Jackie and everyone associated with Highlands Lunch Club, which has just completed its first year. The challenge of feeding – not quite 5,000, but certainly 30 – from a limited kitchen and budget is considerable; but they have smashed it out of the ground.

Highland Methodist Badminton Club

We are a friendly but competitive badminton club that meets at Highlands on Monday evenings from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm. We have a range of ages and mixed abilities, but unfortunately can't take beginners. We currently have 2-3 spaces for players looking to have fun and keep fit. Membership costs less than £10 per month and is paid twice a year. We have one court, so we rotate the games, mainly doubles but with potential to play singles if you get there early!



Please contact us on the numbers below with any questions:

**Sarah on 01702 243529 or
Sophia on 07796 265676**

Electric Piano for Sale

Mike Spaul – on behalf of Belfairs Church - wishes to sell an M-Audio ProKeys 88SX Stage Piano
The suggested price is £60 for a professional



standard instrument that would be affordable for a younger keyboard player. It needs an amplifier and pedals. For more detail you need to talk to Mike either by email: mike.spaul@hotmail.co.uk or Tel: 07752 835666.

Save the Dates

Christmas Coffee Morning Saturday 2 December
10:00 am until 12:00 Noon

Fri 10 November and Sat 11 November *Once Upon a Dream*, a comedy musical thriller performed by MODS the Southend Mencap Operatic and Dramatic Society. Full details in last month's issue.

Stop press: 4:00 pm 10 December this year will be the Highlands Carol Service. That's relatively early, so start getting your tonsils tuned and ready...

From the Editor

I'm not sure whether any of you recognise this 1965 photograph. The man being carried away is Rev Angus Smith (1928-2019) who famously became a one-man roadblock to protest about a Sunday ferry service that was being introduced to the Isle of Skye.



I salute his dedication to his beliefs and I'm sure that Rev Smith was a pleasant, jovial and steadfast Christian man in private. However, he looks decidedly grim and unhappy in this shot. His church (the Free Church of Scotland) became associated in the minds of many observers with a brand of dour, humourless and

strict Calvinist Christianity that was at odds with the times.

Many more of you will recognise the second photograph here. It is a member of Southend's 'Herd in the City', consisting of 46 decorated elephant sculptures and 72 baby elephants. The one seen here was on the pier.



Four of our grandchildren, visiting over the summer, insisted on tracking down as many of the painted pachyderms as possible. It was great to see their delight at the artwork and personality. Not only children took pleasure in the elephants – adults enjoyed them as well. There was of course a serious point to exhibiting the elephants. Each one was sponsored and later auctioned, raising money for Havens Hospice. Southend was not the only location with a similar art trail. The island of Guernsey this year was populated with 60 giant puffins, which raised an astonishing £98,000 at auction for various charities. And of course, Southend had a previous occupation in 2021 by the 'Hares About Town'.

The elephants were wonderful examples of art made to delight and entertain. As Christians we can accept this as a gift and enjoy it openly, because our faith is a joyful faith. As Psalm 100 puts it:

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. [UKNIV]

I will finish with a quick update on the Isle of Skye. In 1995 the Skye bridge opened. In 2004 tolls ended, making free travel to and from

the mainland possible seven days a week. This is a shame for the strict Calvinists, but long-standing declines in both the economy and population have been reversed. In Southend I look forward to the next migration - bears perhaps?

Anon

Puzzle of the Month¹

Here are ten definitions. All you need to do is to connect the answers from the list below. Be careful though. Some definitions have more than one possible answer in the list...

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. A planet | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Minerva |
| 2. A metallic element | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Vauxhall |
| 3. A US President | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Mercury |
| 4. A make of car | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Heather |
| 5. A 'Monopoly' token | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Iron |
| 6. A board game | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Venus |
| 7. A Roman goddess | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Battleship |
| 8. A 'Harry Potter' teacher | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Bush |
| 9. A type of plant | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Mars |
| 10. A female name | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln |

¹ Solution page 22



THE *show* CHOIR

THORPE BAY METHODIST CHURCH

IN AID OF CHURCH MISSION CHARITIES

ADULTS £8

CONCESSIONS £6



SATURDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER

7:30PM

Tickets available from the Church Office
or The Show Choir

Church Office: 01702 589263

Show Choir: 07802 813497



Dining In

This month's recipe is another from one of my favourite books, Rukmini Iyer's *Quick Roasting Tin*. Dinners in one tin, in 30 minutes – what's not to love?

Chicken, chilli and peanuts may sound like an unlikely blend, but it's my mum's favourite when she comes to dinner on a Sunday evening

One Pot Peanut Chilli Chicken with Tomato Rice (Serves 4) **Ingredients**

200g basmati rice	1 red chilli
300g cherry tomatoes	1 tbsp sesame oil
400ml boiling chicken stock	1 tbsp dark soy sauce
60g crunchy peanut butter	1 lime, juice only
8 free range boneless ² , skinless chicken thighs	

Dressing

2 tsp dark soy
1 tbsp lime juice
1 tbsp sesame oil

To serve

Handful of peanuts
3 spring onions
Fresh coriander

Preheat oven to 210°C fan, 210°C, gas 8. Tip rice into lidded casserole (or deep roasting tin) with tomatoes and pour over boiling chicken stock.

² MUST be boneless in order to cook in 30 mins



Mix peanut butter, red chilli, sesame oil, soy sauce and lime juice together. Lay chicken thighs over the rice and tomatoes and pour peanut butter mixture over the thighs, smoothing it over. Cover with the lid or, if using a roasting tin, cover with foil, very tightly. This is important as the rice needs a good seal to cook properly. Transfer to oven and bake for 30 minutes.

Once the chicken is cooked and the peanut butter has formed a lovely golden crust, mix the dressing. Pour over the chicken and rice, scatter peanuts, spring onion and coriander and serve hot.

Humour Corner

Wife:

Why are you frowning at that letter?

Husband:

I'm rather confused. The bank has turned down our request for a loan but approved the repayments...



A Spare Page

Because of the way *Highlander* is printed, the number of pages has to be divisible by 4. Quite often, I find I have (say) 22 pages, which means that I either find more material, to make 24 pages, or try to squeeze what I've got into 20 pages. This often ends in disaster, with paragraphs going everywhere. Sometimes I just give in and put in a favourite photo, such as the one on the next page showing my wife

negotiating a rope bridge at the Lost Gardens of Heligan, Cornwall.



**making
music**



Southend
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Conductor: John Chillingworth
Leader: Richard Brittain

Beethoven: Symphony No7
Gounod: Petite Symphonie
Dvorak: Serenade for Strings

Saturday 14th October 2023
7.30pm

**Highlands Methodist Church,
Sutherland Boulevard,
Leigh-on-Sea SS9 3PT**

Tickets: Adult £15/ U18 £1

Concession: £12

Available from

www.southendsymphony.com

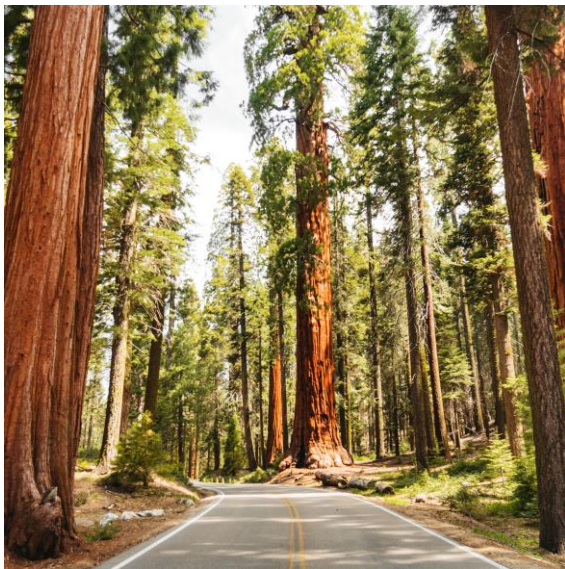


Registered Charity No: 261264

Poem of the Month

As you've already seen, one of the privileges of editorship is to choose more or less whatever I like to print. Especially in this spot.

My stepson Ian and daughter in law, Olivia (née Jones) married four years ago. At their wedding, two other people happened to meet for the first time. One thing led to another, and this summer another



wedding took place between this second couple. Olivia was invited not only to attend, but also to deliver a reading.

It was a secular wedding, and 1 Corinthians Chapter 13 was not an option. So Olivia decided to write her own paean to married love, themed on hiking in Canada's forests that all four of them enjoyed. This is the fruit of her labours. Read it aloud to your spouse, your best friend or your God.

Glimmers by Olivia Sperring

It is as tall as the redwoods, searing into the sky,
It is in every fragment of glacier, a reflection of you and I, side by side.

It is the tenacity and loudness of waves crashing against the sand,
It is having you here, no words exchanged, just you holding my hand.

It is not easy to navigate, like a dense woodland trail; sometimes
it'll feel hard, it'll feel tough, it'll feel raw.
That's when I'll need you to step up, and at least pretend to be sure.

It is the majestic sunset that performs for the crowds,

We celebrate our wins together, what you feel, I feel, and you will always make me feel proud.

It is in your face as you see the view from the top of the mountain,
tired but happy after the climb,
It was in the lifeline on the palm of your hand, as we hiked, and the
way you offered it, time after time.

It is in these tiny glimmers, a pure spark of joy, that I found this to
be true:

This thing that we have, is love, and I have so much love for you.

© 2023 Olivia Sperring

Humour Corner (1)

17th century French bishop joining a debate on
snobbery:

*Jesus Christ was not just the Son of God. He
also came from a very good family on his
mother's side.*



Humour Corner (2)

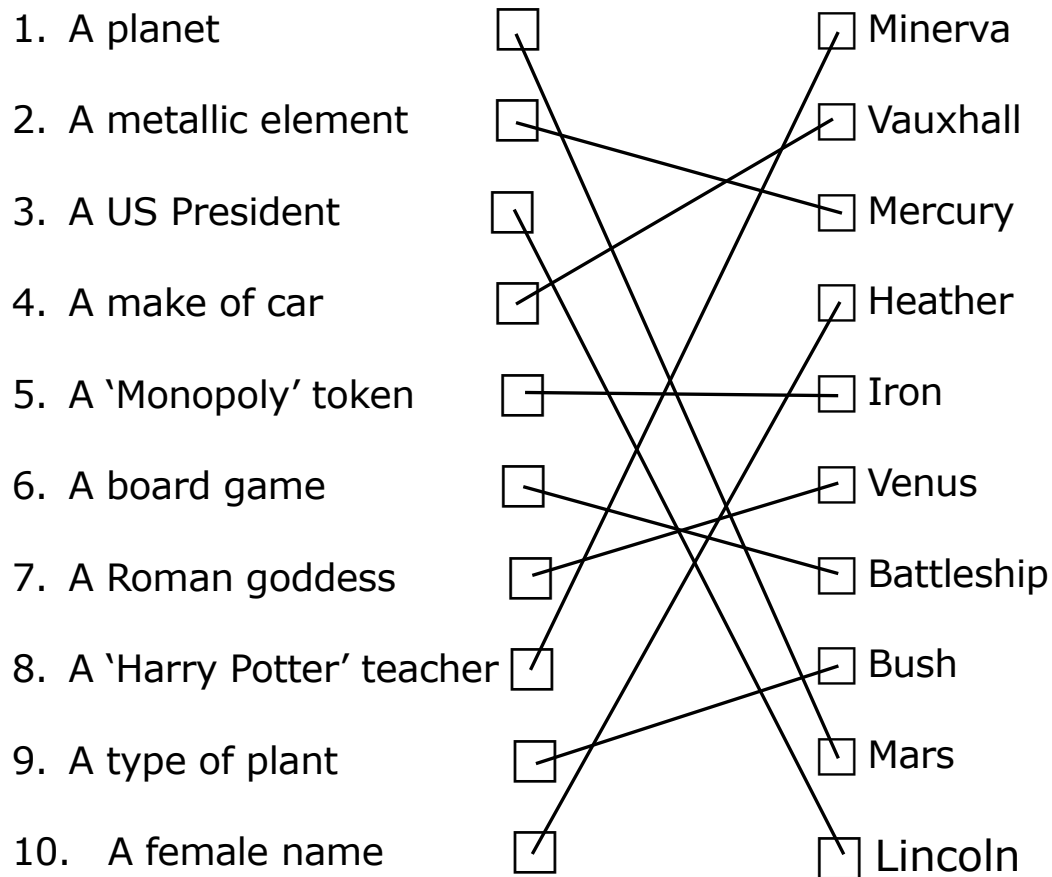
Wife:

*Have you seen the couple that moved in across the road this
week? Wow! He opens the car door for, greets her with a long kiss
when she comes back from work, always holding her hand when
they're out. Why can't you do that?*

Husband:

Have you gone mad? I hardly know the woman...

Puzzle of the Month Solution



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	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

³ Every fortnight

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

A Final Image

St Peter-on-the-Wall chapel, Bradwell. The loneliest place of
worship in Essex? No, it's the house of God. Picture A Hyde

