




The **HIGHLANDER**

September 2023

The monthly newsletter of Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh on Sea

These are services for September 2023.

11:00 am Sun 3 rd	Morning Worship Café Church	Worship Leaders
7:30 pm Mon 4 th	Welcome Service for Rev Heather Simmons	Rev Dr David Chapman
11:00 am Sun 10 th	Morning Worship Communion	Rev Heather Simmons
7:00 pm* Sun 10 th *for 7:30	Gospel Service @ The Fishermen's Chapel	Rev Heather Simmons
11:00 am Sun 17 th	Morning Worship Harvest Festival	Rev Heather Simmons
11:00 am Sun 24 th	Morning Worship	Kathy McCullough

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.



Highlands Methodist Church

Hospitality in the Midst of our Community

All telephone numbers are '01702' unless stated

Minister – until 31 Aug	Pastor Steve Mayo pastorstevemayo@gmail.com	483827
Minister – from 1 Sep	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 Jean Edmonds	473111 473787 479476 473111 525250
Worship Leaders	Jennifer Courtenay Frank Edmonds	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



Welcome for Heather Simmons

As you will have noticed, Heather becomes our minister on 1 September. I'm sure you'll want to join me in welcoming her.

Heather will take part on her first service on Sunday 3 September. This will be a Café Church service, led as usual by our Worship Leaders. As part of the service Heather will introduce herself and later be around for an informal chat.

The official welcome service will take place on the following evening Monday 4 September. This will be a Circuit event which Highlands will be hosting. The service begins at 7:30 but light refreshments will be available from 6:45. The preacher will be the District Chair, Rev Dr David Chapman.

From Your Minister



We are living in a massive time of change! Not only are we coming to the end of the summer, with the trees starting to shed their summer coats, but our whole country, and world, is going through massive changes too. Environmentally, we are seeing changes in our weather; from summers of extreme heat to winters of extreme cold; wildfires and floods seem to be getting more pervasive in certain parts of our world, even in areas which haven't experienced these events before.

And even at this time of year, some of our churches, including Highlands, and our minsters, will be facing change as the stationing process takes place. For Highlands, I will be saying farewell after 3 great years, and Revd. Heather Simmons will be taking up the reins. And I know that each one of us will have our own list of changes which have affected us personally.

All this change can leave us with a sense of uncertainty and can unsettle us.

However, within the book of Malachi, God reveals something of His character when He says.

I the Lord do not change. [Malachi 3:6 NIV]

The same is revealed about Jesus in Hebrews.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. [Hebrews 13:8 NIV]

And many of our hymns reiterate this unchanging promise...

*Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.*

[51 STF v1]

*In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.*

[351 STF v1]

So, as we prepare ourselves for whatever the future brings, remember we have an unchanging God. So, step out on His promises for us as these never change. *'We may not know what the future holds, but we do know who holds the future.'*

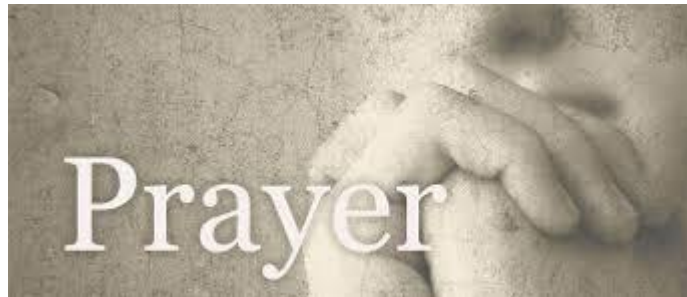
Finally, I want to thank all those at Highlands whose friendship and comradeship has made my time with you a real joy, and I wish you all every blessing for the future.

Pastor Steve

Email: pastorstevemayo@gmail.com

Tel: 01702 483827

pastorstevemayo@gmail.com



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 say **goodbye, thank you and good luck** to Pastor Steve. But Steve himself will be looking forward to officiating at the wedding of daughter Shannon on 13 October. Yes, that is indeed Friday the 13th but nobody involved suffers from triskaidekaphobia.

Congratulations are in order for Stanley, grandson of David and Janet Watson. Stanley's A level results were three perfect A*s, plus one A, gaining him admission to Manchester University.

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



Job Advertisement



Highlands needs a...

LETTINGS OFFICER

Highlands Methodist Church, Southend & Leigh Circuit
(6 hours per week, flexible)

Our church buildings and meeting rooms are in constant demand from many different groups and casual users including youth and community organisations. You would be acting as a point of contact, dealing with administration of lettings, arranging for potential hirer visits (supported by a team of volunteers) and looking for opportunities to expand and improve our lettings business.

Salary: £10.90 per hour (£3,400 pa: *FTE* £20,405 pa)
Annual leave: 28 days *pro rata* (inc Bank Hols). Pension available.

Applicants should send email to highlandsleighmethodistchurch@gmail.com for a fuller job description and application pack.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 15 SEPTEMBER 2023

Snippets

Showstoppers Community Day.

We spent a wonderful day with our friends from Showstoppers. They entertained us with their dancing and their sheer enthusiasm for everything. We were also entertained by Rory the pianist and songs from Lorraine and were pleased to welcome Rev Norman Hooks for a short Service giving thanks for friendship.



Thank you to all who took part in any way and for the catering and donations.

Grateful thanks were received from the wonderful leaders of Showstoppers Andrew and Tammy and all their helpers. We always welcome your presence at Highlands. We all had a great day.

Highlands Toddlers

Highlands Toddlers begins its new term on Monday, 11 September 2023 (9:30 – 11:30 am) when we look forward to welcoming old and new faces. Our best wishes to all our toddlers moving on to pre-school and school. See website:

<https://www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk//children-young-peoples-groups/> for further details 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.

We are meeting in September on Thursdays 7 and 19 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon, and would love new members to join us for our various crafts or just for tea, coffee and company. We plan to try our hand at Quilting with Sandy and other needle crafts. Also, our usual various card making skills led by Marjorie and Margaret.

We are looking ahead to Christmas and our planned Christmas Fayre on Saturday 2 December, so we need to get busy. We sometimes do painting, and flower arranging, and are open to anyone who wishes to share their talents with us. All are very welcome to join us.

Jean Edmonds 525250

Church Flowers for September.

Flowers will be donated for services

† on 10 September by Les Davis in memory of Margaret

† on 17 September by Ros Bryant in memory of her Parents.

on 24 September by Sheila Whitelegg in memory of Ged

Visit to Parliament

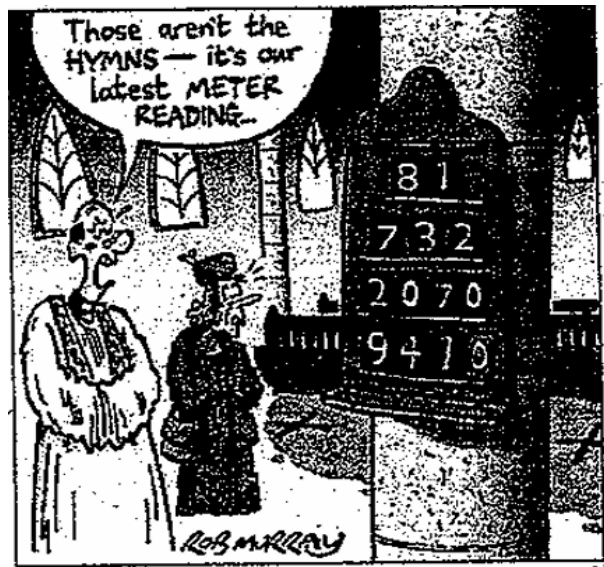
Normally I might put this as a 'Save the Date' but I'm anticipating that demand will be high for this event.

On Friday 13 Oct Jan Andrews has arranged a return coach trip to the Houses of Parliament. The cost, including the coach (from The Elms or Thames Drive) and a 75-minute tour, is just £25.

It's very important that you contact Jan by telephone 07591 825911 or email andrewsjan@hotmail.co.uk as soon as possible if you would like more information or to book seats.



Humour Corner



Serving the Homeless

Our next fundraising event is the Summer Raffle, where you can win one of many hampers. Tickets at £1 each can be bought now from Frank Edmonds. Prizes include Teatime Treats, Italian Feast, Luxury Pamper, Whiskey Tipples, gardening essentials, plant and herb baskets. The draw will take place on Monday 2nd October 2023. Good Luck



Have you seen the poster? Sip, Slurp & Support! A wine tasting evening on Saturday 7 October at St Margaret's Church Hall. 7:15 pm for a 7:30pm prompt start. Proceedings will be led by a qualified wine expert from Majestic Wines. Tickets are £20 per head to include cheese and nibbles. Don't forget to bring some cash for the raffle. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Our Christmas Concert on 15 December will be at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Make a note of the date for this special evening. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served.

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

Frank

Humour Corner

I like jokes about stationery, but rulers are where I draw the line.

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**

MODS

MODS is the Southend Mencap Operatic and Dramatic Society. It is a drama group for adults with learning disabilities. They present an annual production – this year it is *Once Upon a Dream*, a comedy musical thriller with fabulous songs, spectacular dance routines, a gripping plot and (of course) a cursed mirror.

Performances are Fri 10 November and Sat 11 November both at 6:30 pm. Tickets £14.00 Full; £11.50 concessions from <https://southendtheatres.org.uk/>

general information
<https://www.southendmencap.org.uk>

A 17th Century Nun's Prayer

You may remember being asked for suggestions for inclusion in Eileen Simmonds's 'Favourites' service on 20 August. One contribution from a Highlands member was this:

Dear Lord,

thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will someday be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.



Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of other's pains but help me to endure them with patience. I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my

memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me

the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a saint – some of them are so hard to live with – but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the Devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people. And give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

Amen

Action for Children (AfC)



Pam Smith's efforts on behalf of AfC yielded the following:

Collection boxes	152.05
Coffee morning	86.97
Service collection	<u>149.72</u>
Total	388.74

A splendid effort, thanks to all who gave and all who helped. AfC protects and supports children and young people, providing practical and emotional care and support, ensuring their voices are heard, and campaigning to bring lasting improvements to their lives.

Humour Corner

Engineers have made a car that can run on mint. Hopefully, they can make buses and trains run on thyme.

From the Editor



At the behest the Methodist Conference, all Districts and Circuits are organising Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) training. This will be on a 'sheep dip' basis. That is to say that all our Stewards and Youth/Family Workers must take the plunge. Others are very welcome to join in as well.

Some of you will be pleased by this, and some dismayed. Among the leading objections (which I have boiled down to the basics) are probably these:

- Methodist Conference is making unwarranted assumptions about my attitudes to racism, sexism etc.
- There is no serious problem, so this is a sledgehammer to crack a nut.
- Why isn't Methodism tackling more important issues such as [*insert your own favourites here*]?
- It's yet another example of 'wokery'.

Despite these objections, I think that this is likely to be a worthwhile and necessary programme. Let's look at the last bullet point first. Perhaps you've heard of 'wokery' (or 'wokeism') but you're not really sure what it is, except that the tabloid newspapers dislike it. Here are a couple of definitions that might help:

- 1. ...promotion of liberal progressive ideology and policy as an expression of sensitivity to systemic injustices and prejudices*
- 2. ...weaponised personal grievances masquerading as a genuine social concern. It's defined by its fraudulent nature, as being distinct from legitimate social grievances.*

No – that didn't really help, did it? People don't agree on what it means. However, the words 'injustice', 'grievance' and 'prejudice' seem to point us towards recent scandals in the Metropolitan Police, professional cricket, and elsewhere. Some of these have concerned racial inequalities, others have pinpointed a culture that clearly discriminates against women. We may well look out from our Methodist bastions and say: 'Thank God we are not like them...' but we need to re-read *Luke 18:9-14* ('The Pharisee and the Tax Collector') before going too far down that line.

If we want to grow our church, then perhaps we need to first recognise that the world out there is not like us. It is, dare I say it, younger, different in education and aspiration, more comfortable with new technologies, armed with a fresh set of attitudes to race, sexual orientation, nutrition, environment and human rights. We can't always change ourselves to suit others, nor expect others to change for us. But we must listen, understand and, when it is appropriate, tolerate.

The plain truth is that we are all prejudiced. Suppose we see a man driving badly who happens to be in a white van. It's a small step from there to using 'white van man' as shorthand for a careless or aggressive driver. We assume that all WVMs will be bad drivers, and that is a prejudice.

Prejudice is not necessarily a bad thing. It is part of the way we learn about and make sense of the world. A child stung by a wasp will acquire a wholly understandable prejudice against narrow-waisted yellow-and-white striped insects, and perhaps not be stung again.

The key element, I think, is that we must recognise and accept our prejudices. Only then can we examine and modify our own behaviour; also, we can consider and evaluate the attitudes and practices of groups – church for example - to which we belong. If we fail to do that, the seeds of prejudice may develop into the pernicious thorns of bias and bigotry.

So, if you are asked to join in EDI training, do so with a willing heart. Don't just 'attend' – instead, please 'take part'! If you are not invited, you can still volunteer to join in. This is especially important if you feel that there are parts of the Methodist Church that are not up to the required standard. Or if you think that Methodism has no problem with EDI then that is great – but please make the effort to keep it that way.

Finally, you might ask what the 'required standard' might look like. Again, we can usefully read scripture, this time *Luke 10:25-37* ('The Good Samaritan'). If we aspire to be that Samaritan, the cost to us is quite modest.



Dining In

Classic fruit scones

I love scones – who doesn't? - but have never been very happy with the ones I've made. The key is following the recipe exactly. This one gives the best fruit scones ever. I'm sure there's science behind heating the baking tray and putting lemon juice in the milk – but I'm happy knowing that it just works.

- 350g SR flour
- Pinch salt
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 85g butter

- 3 tbsp caster sugar
- 85g sultanas
- 175 ml milk
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- Squeeze lemon juice

Method

1. Heat oven to 220C/fan 200C
2. Tip flour into large bowl with salt and baking powder. Add butter and rub in with your fingers until the mix looks like fine breadcrumbs.
3. Stir in sugar and sultanas.
4. Put the milk in a jug and heat it in a microwave for 30 secs until warm, but not hot. Add vanilla and lemon juice, then set aside. (The milk will start to curdle which is just what you want.)
5. Put baking sheet in the oven.
6. Make a well in the centre of the dry ingredients then add the liquid and combine quickly with a knife. It will seem pretty wet.
7. Scatter some flour on the working surface and tip the dough out. Dredge the dough and your hands with a little more flour and fold it over 2-3 times until it's a little smoother. Pat into a round about 4cm deep. Don't overwork it or it will become tough – handle as little as possible.
8. Use a smooth edge cutter (this works best), 5cm if you have it and cut out 4 scones. Press the dough back together and cut out another 4.
9. Brush the tops with beaten egg, place on hot baking tray and bake for 10 minutes.



Regarding jam and clotted cream, it doesn't matter which goes on first, but neither should go on a fruit scone. A fruit scone may be split and lightly buttered.

Finally, do not reheat scones in a microwave; you'll lose that nice texture (with a very slight crunch) that goes with a fresh scone

Puzzle of the Month¹

There are five silly but quick puzzles below. If you can solve them all in two minutes, then you've still got it...

1. How many months have 28 days?
2. You are running in a cross-country race. Just before crossing the finish line, you overtake the person in second place. In what place did you finish?
3. A man pushes his car to a hotel and tells the owner he's bankrupt. Why?
4. How far can a rabbit run into the woods?
5. Two numbers that add up to 8 (marked by ?) are missing from this sequence: **8 5 4 9 ? ? 6 3 2 0** What are they?
(Clue: even if you don't believe in witchcraft, a spell will help)

Poem of the Month

Brian Bilston (not his real name) known as the 'Poet Laureate of Twitter', wrote this in 2016. He is something of a mystery man. On his website brianbilston.com the section 'About Brian' reads in total: *I write poems.*

This poem has a purpose of showing that there are always at least two ways of looking at things. You should first read the poem conventionally – top to bottom. Then you should read it another

¹ Solution page 22

way, line by line from the bottom to the top. The result is slightly different. It's up to us which way we choose.

Refugees
by Brian Bilston (c.1970 -)

They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way



An Invitation from Hadleigh Methodists

 **HADLEIGH**
METHODIST CHURCH
Sunday Socials!

Come and join us at Hadleigh Methodist Church for our new

Sunday Socials!

**1st Sunday of each month 12pm till 2pm from Sunday 3rd
September 2023**

£2.50 Per Person



Friendship

Board Games

Quizzes

Conversation



Tea

Coffee

Cakes

Sandwiches

All are also welcome to join our regular church
services 11a.m. every Sunday

Puzzle of the Month Solution

1. All 12 months have 28 days. Some even more.
2. You are in second place. If you pass the person in second, you take second place, and they become third.
3. The man is playing Monopoly. He has just lost.
4. A rabbit may run halfway into the woods. After that he's running out.
5. 1 and 7: the sequence eight, five, four, nine, one, seven, six, three, two, zero is that of the ten digits in alphabetical order.

Humour Corner

Man, who has just knocked on the back door of a mansion:

Excuse me sir. I'm a bit strapped for cash. Just wondering if you have any work that needs doing round the house, in the garden. I'm very diligent. Had my own business once.

Homeowner:

I'm impressed by your willingness to work. Fetch a tin of paint from the garage, then go round the front and give the porch a nice coat of white gloss. Shall we say £20?



Man, who has just knocked:

Certainly sir...

[One hour later] ...finished sir. It looks great now. By the way sir, it's a Bentley not a Porsche.

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 ² 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

² 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 October 2023 issue should be emailed to
andrewghyde@aol.com before the **deadline of Sunday 24
September**, and earlier if possible. No email? Don't despair; just
telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.

A Final Image

Dog and owner on a misty morning, Hill Top near Tenbury Wells,
Worcestershire. Picture A Hyde

