



The **HIGHLANDER**

October 2020

The monthly newsletter of Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh on Sea

11:00 Sun 4 th	Café Church Using ZOOM <i>All are welcome</i>	Kathy McCullough
11:00 Sun 11 th	Morning Worship Using ZOOM <i>All are welcome</i>	Worship Leaders
11:00 Sun 18 th	Morning Worship inc Communion <i>Booking essential</i>	Rev Norman Hooks
11:00* Sun 25 th	Morning Worship Using ZOOM <i>All are welcome</i>	Rev Norman Hooks

*Remember to put your clocks back!

NB All the above services are subject to possible amendment if pertinent regulations and circumstances change

Find more information at: www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk



Highlands (Leigh) Methodist Church

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

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From Your Minister



[Illustration Unlimited: James Hewett]

In some parts of Mexico hot springs and cold springs are found side by side – and because of the convenience of this natural occurrence, the women often bring their laundry, boil their clothes in the hot springs and then rinse them in the cold ones.

A tourist, who was watching this procedure commented to his Mexican friend and guide:

‘I imagine that they think old Mother Nature is pretty generous to supply such ample, clean hot and cold water here side by side for their free use.’

‘No, señor,’ the guide replied. ‘There is much grumbling because she supplies no soap.’

How often do we find ourselves grumbling about life, when, if we would only open our eyes, we would see we have been given so much?

In life we can have one of two attitudes; we can be grateful or

ungrateful.

People who live with an ungrateful attitude are always waiting for something bigger and better to come along before they'll be thankful. But a grateful attitude lifts you up because you are thankful for the little miracles of life that come along every day.

Yes, we are living in a global pandemic, but God's provision for us remains the same; the sun still shines, the rain still falls, crops are being harvested and there is food on our tables. James 1:16-17 tells us;

'Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.'



When you have a grateful heart, you are looking past the hills of everyday problems, and toward the heavens from where your true help really comes. We should be grateful that the Lord we serve has the capability to handle anything and everything that life can throw at us. All we have to do is shown a bit of appreciation to a God who gives us everything.

God loves a cheerful servant as well as a cheerful giver. Every church family has its 'Doubting Thomas' or its 'Miserable Mary'. To see them and listen to them is like witnessing an autopsy or diving into the sea on a winter's day; not enjoyable! God wants His family to be happy, and that means that each member must contribute to the joy. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says;

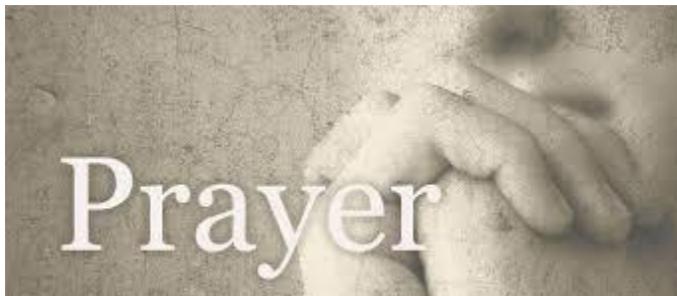
'Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.'

A final question: Do you lead a life that is full of gratitude and thanksgiving to God for all that you have?

Pastor Steve, October 2020

Tel: 01702 483827

Email: pastorstevemayo@gmail.com



We pray for our friends who are ill, housebound, or bereaved and for those in residential care: particularly Maureen Kelly at home and *Doll Edwards* in *The Cedars*. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families.

We pray still for Trevor Metcalfe. His recovery was always going to be gradual and we thank everyone concerned in his care.

We also thank all those who have cared for Sheila Smith who is recovering after a cancer episode.

We remember Wojtek Miecznikowski, an occasional guest at the Winter Night Shelters. Wojtek was notable for his good humour and gratitude, if not for sobriety. Sadly, he appears to have died following an altercation near Westcliff Library that is still under police investigation. We pray for Wojtek's family (his mother in Poland and at least a brother in the UK) and friends, and all those who have tried to help him, especially those in the Council's housing teams.

We congratulate...

...the Charnock family (great grandparents Marjorie and Keith, grandparents Annette and Neil, parents Jenny and Jonathan, and great aunt Ruth) on the safe arrival of Oscar Peter on 15 September.

...Heather Stanford on becoming a member of Highlands at the outdoor service on 30 August

...Julie Watson on the award of a Masters' degree in Art Psychotherapy from Goldsmiths University of London. If like me you did not immediately recognise the discipline, and will allow an oversimplification, Art Psychotherapy involves patients becoming involved in artistic endeavours such as painting and sculpture as part of their mental health care.

...my wife Lesley on tolerating marriage to me for 20 years on 30 September.

Snippets

Westerley

Many of you will know that Westerley is a Christian (Not for Profit) Residential Care Home for about 20 residents situated in Winton Avenue, Westcliff. Jayne Gardiner the manager writes:

I currently have 4 vacant rooms, we are and have been COVID free through the whole pandemic, But are struggling to fill my remaining rooms due to I assume people not wanting to come into care due to the current situation.

If you want to know more, you can contact Jayne on 01702 567682

Highlands Hobbies **Knit & Natter**

Regrettably, the current regulations around COVID 19 do not allow any further meetings for the foreseeable future. The risks to our senior members are just too severe.

Regulations of course are changing every so often, but it may be some time before they become less stringent.

Cards

Ros Bryant and Margaret Wood still hold a lovely selection of cards for all occasions. If you are finding it difficult to shop at this time, they will be happy to make a selection available to you

Ros Bryant 478631
Margaret Wood 557512

Serving the Homeless

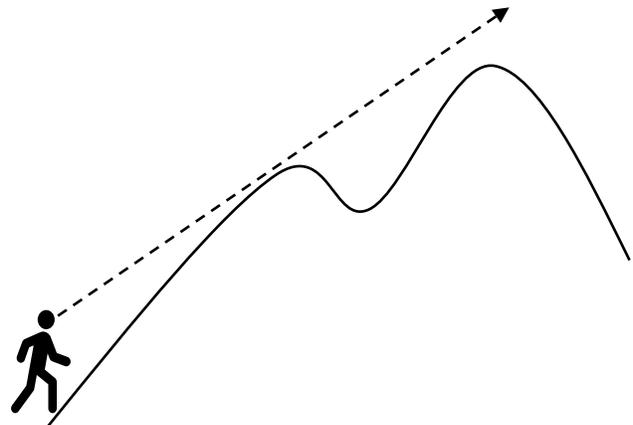
Thank you for your support of the Summer Raffle. We managed to raise just over £1,000 – a magnificent figure given the circumstances. Out of the twenty hampers available, two of the tickets sold by our group managed to win - not a bad percentage bearing in mind the number of tickets sold.

We are now working on a YouTube item for Christmas as we are unlikely to be able to meet for our usual service. Contributions have been promised from YMCA and Our Lady of Lourdes choir, as well as readings by Committee members and solos from talented young children. Watch this space!

From the Editor

I think that most of us have experienced that feeling of relief that comes from seeing the top of a hill that we are trying to climb. One more effort and it's 'job done' and you can stand on the top and drink in the views.

However, it often turns out that what we saw was a 'false peak'. This seems to happen a great deal in Wales. As we get closer, we realise that there is another higher peak cunningly concealed behind the false peak. I can easily show why this happens with a diagram.



When you're making a big effort to deal with the here and now, you don't always take the correct view of what lies ahead.

Unfortunately, our present experience of Coronavirus COVID 19 is beginning to feel a lot like this.

Now, just bear with me for a moment while I explain that my wife thinks I am becoming more and more curmudgeonly as I get older. (I'll just pause there to say that 'curmudgeonly' is one of my favourite words, despite its unfair use in relation to me. It has no agreed origin, unless of course you know better.)

One thing that usually does succeed in bringing out the Scrooge in me is the first manifestation of Christmas that normally occurs at about this time. However, it seems that COVID 19 is a threat to the kind of Christmas to which we've become accustomed – you know, the one with all the arguments, overspending, overeating, waste, stress (I could go on)... I think people are entitled to enjoy their Christmas break. Families should get together if they can and enjoy being together. But for that to happen we have to listen to the meaning and significance of Christmas and try to put 'goodwill

to all' into practice.

We all hope that COVID 19 doesn't spoil Christmas, but perhaps it will unexpectedly provide an opportunity to put the Christ-child and His message at the very centre of what we do. If that happens then I really don't mind so much if our hard-pressed retailers want to decorate their windows in October.

Anarca



Jobs for the garden

From our Special Gardening Correspondent

Autumn is the best time to tidy up your pond; to keep it looking good and maintain a healthy environment for all the creatures that use it. Remove any rotting leaves and excess vegetation - you need plants and cover, but too much will choke the pond. Cut back any overhanging plants and trim away fading flowers and leaves. You also need to tackle the blanketweed – and if anyone has found a way to do this please let the editor know. I've tried various chemicals – the ones that are kind to wildlife, barley straw. I've sat and pulled out all I can see but still the blanket weed creeps back.

It's also a good time now to repair your lawn. Have a good look at



it and deal with the wear and tear of summer. Apply fertiliser while the lawn is still growing strongly to improve the health of the lawn. I saw a good tip on a gardening programme on the television – don't ask me which one, I can't remember – and they suggested sewing grass seed in a seed tray, growing it on and then using it as

a patch to repair the lawn. What a good idea, I thought – I must pass it on.

Now is the time to lift bulbs and corms that will not survive the winter – I'm going to lift my canna rhizomes this year and store in the green house. I had thought that as we were in a milder area, they would survive in the ground, but I lost some last year.

Most things have to be hardy to survive in my garden. All my



penstemon survived last winter – it's important that you don't cut back the foliage hard this time of year. They should be cut back hard in the spring. They don't survive for too many years so you could take some cuttings now of your favourite plants and get them established before the winter really sets in. I do love my penstemons for their colour, bee friendliness and ease of growing.

And whilst this is a time of shortening days, cooler temperatures, don't get despondent.

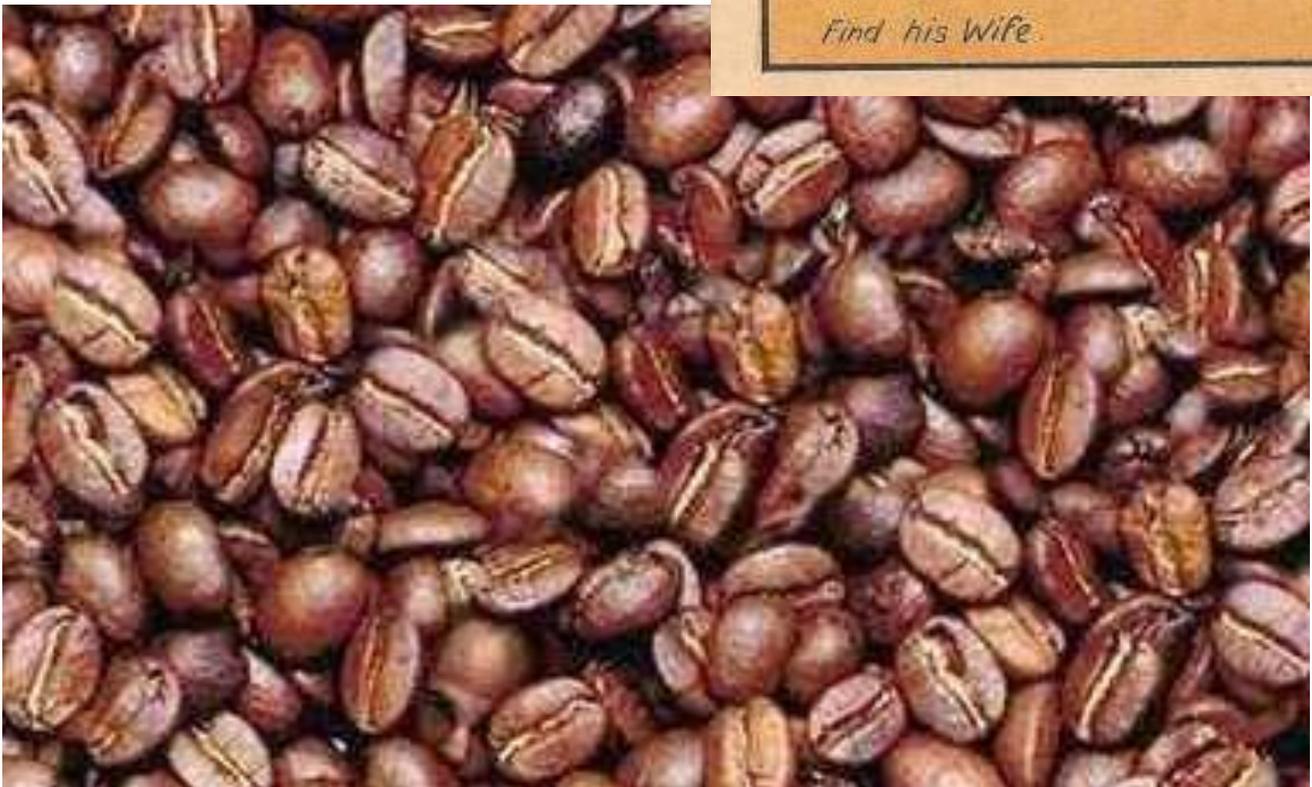
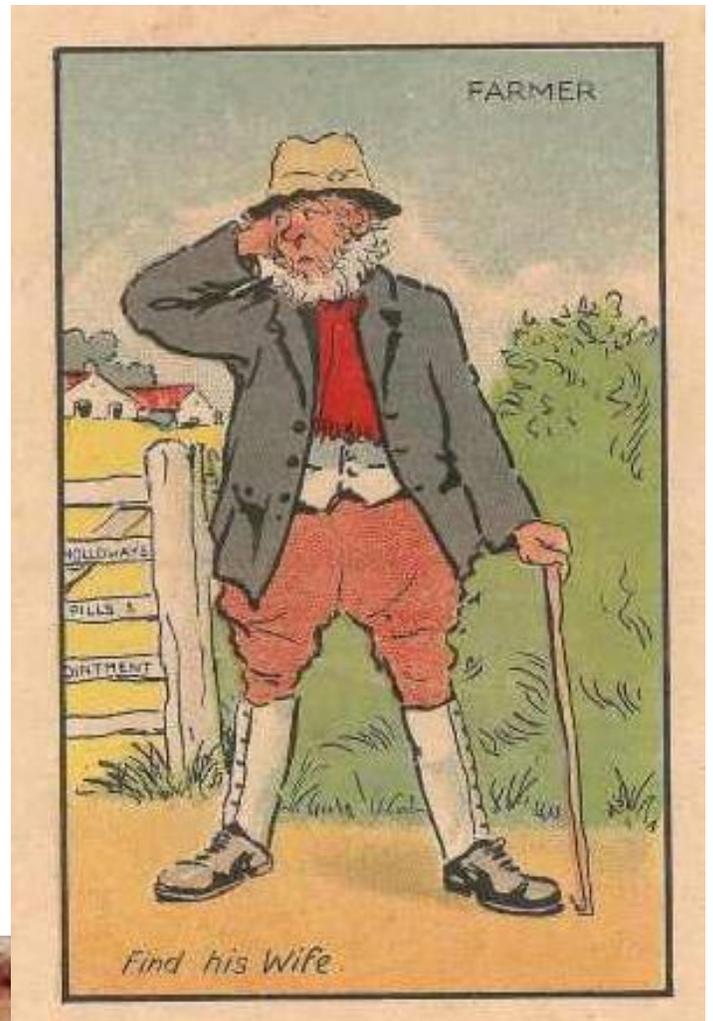
It is a time to reflect on the year we've had so far and think about what has worked well and what things I would change for the next year. Get planning for next year – things will get better.

Puzzle of the Month

Visual puzzles this month, and two for the price of one.

Firstly, a puzzle that's a bit retro. Can you help the farmer (right) find his wife? She's in the picture somewhere!

Secondly find the face that's hidden in the coffee beans below. Piece of cake (to go with your coffee perhaps) once you've solved the first one



Poem for October

Pauline has kindly selected the poem below. She writes:
'Although it's Autumn I thought this little poem had an uplifting ring to it; unfortunately no name takes the credit.'
Unless anyone knows better of course.



LEAVES AT PLAY

Scamper, little leaves, about,
In the autumn sun.
I can hear the old Wind shout,
Laughing, as you run,
And I haven't any doubt,
That he likes the fun.
So run on and have your play,
Romp with all your might.
Dance across the autumn day,
When the sun is bright.
Soon you'll hear the old Wind say,
"Little leaves, good night."

From the Archives

Highlands after WW2

In the August edition of the Highlander you will have read that the opening and dedication of our present church building took place on Saturday 7 July 1956. In the order of service for that day was printed an historical note contributed by Mr Rowland Hankin a church steward. Last month's extract took us up to the end of the Second World War, when Highlands was once again able to contemplate plans for a new and more spacious church.

Mr Hankin's script continued:

The vigorous leadership of Rev Boggis has been more than maintained since his departure in 1950, by his successor Rev Garfield Wade. During the past six years, the society has been built up spiritually, financially, and numerically to far greater heights than ever reached before. In September 1951, the pipe organ in the school hall was opened, and in the following October, the church's Silver Jubilee was celebrated with a month of special services and meetings.

A new church was still the fond hope of all at Highlands, but owing to restrictions imposed by the Connexional Chapel Committee, the pre-war plans had to be abandoned and a modified scheme was prepared for whenever a licence to build might be granted. Thus, it was that when the Government eventually removed its control upon new buildings, we were ready to go ahead with a new scheme.

A visit by Rev Wade and representatives of the Highlands Trust to Dr Irvonwy Morgan, secretary of the London Mission and Extension Fund, in early 1955, ultimately resulted in the transfer to Highlands of £10,000 (*worth £264,094 today*) War Damage Compensation from Woodgrange Road Methodist Church, Forest Gate. This was indeed a terrific uplift on the financial side and

meant that our immediate worry of possibly opening the new church with a huge debt upon it, was removed.

In June 1955, the clearing of the site took place and the actual building was begun. Amidst great jubilation, the foundation stone laying was held on 24 September, and hopes were high that the church would be open in the spring of 1956. This was however, not to be. A four month hold-up whilst we awaited delivery of the steel work slowed down our plans, and doubts began to arise as to whether Rev Wade would still be our minister when the eventual opening took place. Since Easter, however, the contractors, Messrs C S Wiggins and Sons of Thundersley, have made a tremendous effort enabling us to arrange for 7 July as our opening day.

That we have arrived at this happy event is due in the main to the energetic and forceful efforts of a number of individuals. Rev Garfield Wade, as leader of this venture; Mr Gentry of Grays, our architect, has done much work behind the scenes and is to be thanked for his voluntary services to the cause; Mr Albert Stibbards as chief clerk of works has spent hours in work and worry on the scheme, ably assisted by Mr Hubert Bryant (*Rosalie's father*) and Mr Alan Nightingale, while Mr Frank Garrod our trust secretary (*grandfather to Heather Stanford*), has rejoiced in a job after his own heart. The finances of the scheme have been in the capable hands of Mr S Marston and Mr W Height, while the local trustees are to be thanked for many hours in long and protracted committee meetings.

That the trustees should have asked one of their own number, Mr Rowland Hankin, to open the church is fitting testimony to his outstanding contribution to the life and work of Highlands. He came as a boy to the Sunday School and then to the church with the Wesley Pioneers in 1926 and ever since he has been pushing on the work in every way possible. Without his great zeal, it is doubtful whether we should be where we are today and in the moment that he opens the new church door, Highlands will thank

God for a vigorous leader responsible for so much – not least the £1,000 (£25,127 today) contributed by the Sunday School to the new church. With such helpers – and Highlands is rich in its devoted workers – the Highlands that is to be, will be better than anything we have known.

Andrew Saville

We have to thank Jill Ghelfi (née Carter) now resident in southern France, who prompted the reproduction of the foregoing text, by sending to us a copy of the Order of Service for 7th July 1956.

Puzzle of the Month

Farmer's wife – turn the image upside down and check out his left leg. There she is! (No, I've no idea what she's doing down there either)

Coffee beans – check the bottom row, towards the left.



In union with Christ you have become rich in all things, including all speech and all knowledge.

1 Corinthians 1:5

SERVING the COMMUNITY 7 Days a Week

Children and Young People

Fellowship Groups

Services to the Community

Social and Recreational

These services are suspended at the moment. We hope of course that they can be restored soon.

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 2020 issue should be emailed to andrewghyde@aol.com before Sunday 25 October. No email? Don't despair; just telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.

Never let go of loyalty and faithfulness. Tie them round your neck; write them on your heart. If you do this, both God and man will be pleased with you.

Proverbs 3:3-4