



The **HIGHLANDER**

July/August 2025

The monthly newsletter of Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh on Sea

These are services at Highlands for July 2025

10:30 am Sun 6 th	Morning Worship Café Church	Deborah Spinks
10:30 am Sun 13 th	Morning Worship Communion	Rev Heather Simmons
4:00 pm Sun 20 th	All Age Community Worship & Praise	Matt Bunkall
10:30 am Sun 27 th	Morning Worship United Service @ Highlands	Rev Heather Simmons



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 for July 2025.

9:30 am Sun 6 th	Morning Worship Communion	Rev Peter Moorhouse
7:30 pm Sun 13 th (Coffee/cake from 7)	Gospel Service	Rev Heather Simmons
7:30 pm Sun 20 th	Evening Worship Anchored	Rev Heather Simmons
Welcome to join us 10:30 am Sun 27 th	Morning Worship United Service @ Highlands	Rev Heather Simmons
7:30 pm Sun 27 th	Evening Worship Mindfulness	Rev Heather Simmons



These are services at Highlands for August 2025

10:30 am Sun 3 rd	Morning Worship Café Church	Jane Fulford
10:30 am Sun 10 th	Morning Worship Communion	Rev Heather Simmons
4:00 pm Sun 17 th	All Age Community Worship & Praise	Matt Bunkall
10:30 am Sun 24 th	Morning Worship United Service @ Highlands	Paul Saunders
11:00 am Sun 31 st	Morning Worship United Service @ Belfairs	Rev Steve Mayo

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9:30 am Sun 3 rd	Morning Worship Communion	Rev Heather Simmons
7:30 pm Sun 10 th (Coffee/cake from 7)	Gospel Service	Rev Heather Simmons
7:30 pm Sun 17 th	Evening Worship Anchored	tbc
7:30 pm Sun 24 th	Evening Worship Mindfulness	tbc
Welcome to join us 11:00 am Sun 31 st	Morning Worship United Service @ <u>Belfairs</u>	Rev Steve Mayo

Just a reminder that if anyone finds that it is difficult to get to any of these services – especially for services not taking place at your normal place of worship – please contact any of the stewards who will arrange a lift.



Highlands Methodist Church

Hospitality in the Midst of our Community

All telephone numbers are '01702' unless stated

Minister	Rev Heather Simmons	07879 232231
	heather.simmons@methodist.org.uk	
Secretary to Church Council	David Watson	555702
Minutes Secretary	Vanessa Mayes	473787
Church Stewards	Andrew Hyde	473111
	Donald Mayes	473787
	Lesley Hyde	473111
	Jean Edmonds	801517
All Age Community Builder	Matt Bunkall	07305 769086
	mattbunkall@gmail.com	
Church Treasurer	Steve Watson	07543 905641
Children's Worker	Ros Bryant	478631
Pastoral Co-ordinator	Jean Edmonds	801517
Church Flowers	Jean Edmonds	801517
Lettings/Use of Premises	Sam Watson	07510 808519
	highlandslettings@gmail.com	

From Your Minister

Dear Church family,

How many of you respond to a hunch? I often do, and it is almost always a blessing. I often think that a hunch is a gentle nudge from the Holy Spirit to respond to God, working away in our communities.

I would like to invite you to think about allowing time in your day to respond to a hunch.

Who is on your mind, or on your heart? Could you drop them a note or card, or stop for a coffee?

I wonder if Jesus responded to hunches - to the gentle nudge of the Holy Spirit. In the gospel of John [Ch 7 vs 1-17] I was reading that Jesus had initially decided not to go to the Festival of Booths in Judea. He sent his disciples on without him, but then Jesus changed his mind and went in secret and then found himself preaching in the temple by the glory of God. This story is, of course, one of many such stories that we could interpret as Jesus responding to a hunch.

I am sure we have stories of our own, where we get a sense that something is, or isn't right, or we should, or shouldn't go. Are these sensations or whisperings God's 'still small voice'? I think so.

In our society of sensationalism, we often only read about huge acts of bravery or sacrifice that make our small contributions seem insignificant or not worthwhile. But you never know how that small act of kindness or word of encouragement could make someone's day or even change their life. However, in order to respond to our hunches with these small acts of kindness, we first need to be attentive. A prayer by Rev'd Barbara Glasson speaks of this

*Create in me a quiet mind,
dwell within my spiralling spirit
as an epicentre of calm.
Give me courage and resilience,
gentleness and stillness,
an attentive demeanour,
a centred soul.
Let everything within me long for peace,
everything without me be assurance
of your grace and love.*

So beautiful people, I must now leave you as I have a hunch it is time for lunch!
(my stomach not the Holy Spirit this time!)

I would love to hear any stories you have responding to your hunches.

May you know the comfort and precious gift of love of our Holy Saviour this July.

God bless,

Rev Hev xx

From the Editor

Since Lesley and I are off very shortly to Norway for two-and-a-bit weeks, we're besieged by stuff to do. So, this month's issue, incorporating August as well, is trimmed to basics. You can use the time you save to sit outside (in the shade) with a book and a cold drink...

Meanwhile we'll take a look at the Canister Stone on the west side of Vågsøy, shaped by the sea and waves over thousands of years.



Anne

Diary Dates

- Our July Classic Film Club will be on 25 July at 2:00 pm when we'll be enjoying 'Paddington' (2014) directed by Paul King. A friendly migrant bear, adopted in London by the Brown family, is unaware he is being stalked by an unscrupulous taxidermist. It is very suitable for children, and it quite lightly explores themes of tolerance and relationships with people who are different from us.
- On Sunday 29 June the Ordination of Rev Agnes¹ & Rev Heather goes ahead at St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury. Unfortunately, a coach outing proved impracticable, but you can watch the service live on screen at Rochford MC (10:00 am, for the service) and/or Belfairs MC (3:30 pm, for the ordination).



And further ahead...

- Highlands Pilgrimage.
Sunday 10 August 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm

¹ Rev Agnes Sam is minister responsible for Hockley & Hawkwell, Rochford and UMC Methodist churches.

Your Prayers Are Needed

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*, and *Peggy Gosling*. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families.

We **pray especially for** Rev Teresa Rutterford, for whom a nasty fall has resulted in two broken legs. We wish Teresa a good recovery as soon as possible.

We **remember** homeless people everywhere, but in particular those displaced by wars that seem to be constantly spreading. Also, everyone to whom war has brought physical and mental harm that is wholly undeserved, and their families – above all their children. May we remember to act out the words 'ALL ARE WELCOME'.

We **ask** God to bring the leaders of the world together, show them the madness they are creating, and demand that they stop.

Snippets



Hobbies

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 10:00am until 12:00 noon. The cost is £3 including refreshments.

- On 3 July there will be the opportunity to knit a poppy or alternatively to design/colour a nature or wildlife card. For more detail of the poppy knitting, see below.
- 17 July will be a 'Pick and Mix' morning to design your own card.

Hobbies will finish for the summer on the 17 July and resume in September, when all are welcome. We hope you all enjoy the summer holiday. Stay safe.

Toddlers

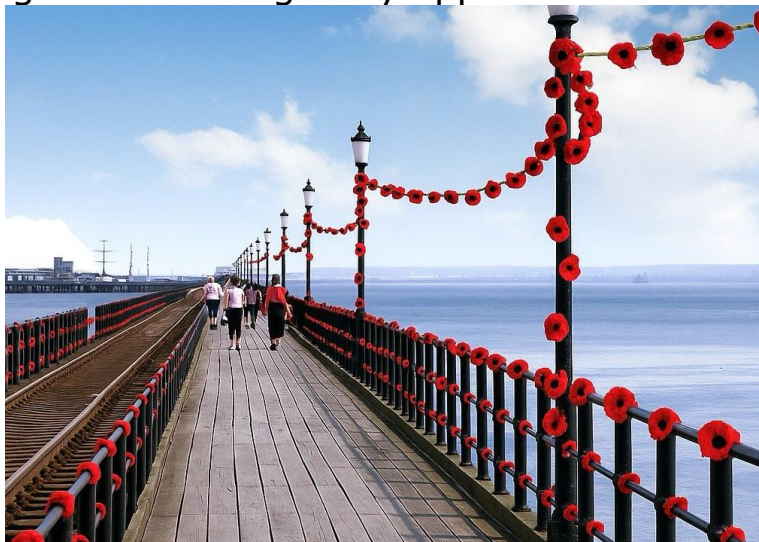
The last session of this current term is Monday 14 July 2025. We wish all our toddlers and supporters a happy holiday.
Ros and Margaret

Poppies

This appeal asks people to knit or crochet poppies to line the length of Southend Pier for remembrance. The poppies will be on view between 5 and 16 November 2025. Patterns are available to download from the Southend Pier website. Donation points for knitted poppies will include Highlands Methodist Church, Southend Pier and Railway, all Southend library branches, Southend Civic Centre and Westcliff Wools. The deadline for poppy donations is 26 September 2025.

The British Legion is also aiming to raise funds from the sale of knitted poppies.

Our Hobbies group will be making poppies to sell as brooches for Church funds, as well as for the Pier display. Any donations of red double knitting wool will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.



SERVING the COMMUNITY 7 Days a Week

Children and Young People

Group	Time	Contact
Scouts	Thu 7:30 to 9:00 pm	Jack Reeve 07847 355859
Cubs	Thu 5:45 to 7:15 pm	Chloë Nuttman ² 07570 040085
Rainbows	Wed 4:00 to 5:00 pm	Julie Griffiths 07834 321724
Brownies	Wed 5:30 to 7:00 pm	Teresa Thompson 07809 219729
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	Rosalie 478631

Services to the Community

Group	Time	Contact
Lunch Club	2 nd Tuesday 12:00	07951 963730 Registration essential

Social and Recreational

Group	Time	Contact
Hobbies	1 st /3 rd Thu 10:00 am to noon	Jean 801517

² Chloë is a temporary contact while Jordan is on a break

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 September 2025 issue should be emailed to me andrewghyde@aol.com before the early **deadline of Sunday 24 August**. No email? Don't despair; just telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.

All contributions and correspondence (including images) are welcome subject to editorial control by the minister and stewards, and copyright.

All About Zoom

On the calendar you'll notice that some meetings (eg *Lectio Divina*) take place on 'Zoom'. I recommend both. *Lectio Divina* (or Divine Reading) is based on a monastic practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer to promote communion with, and knowledge of God. You don't need to say or do anything, just let the Word flow through and around you. A bit like a low-heat scriptural sauna.

Zoom is just a way of taking part in a meeting remotely, using your computer. It costs nothing and it's ideal for *Lectio Divina*. If you fancy trying it out, all you need to do is (1) log on using <https://zoom.us/> (2) click on **Join** and enter a Meeting ID which (for Lec Div) is 953 4743 3390 (3) enter passcode 498912 when asked.

Highlands in Bloom...

...Raised £190 for Fair Havens Hospice. Well done all involved.

Highlands July Calendar

Apologies if the print is slightly small – we’re experimenting with different layouts. In the table below, ‘**Z**’ stands for ‘Zoom Meeting’.

Tu 1	9:00 am Z 10 am -12 noon	Prayers Tuesday Chatter
We 2	7:30 pm-8:15 pm Z	Lectio Divina with Rev Hev and Clive Johnson
Th 3	10:00am-2:00 pm	Hobbies
Fr 4		
Sa 5	10:00 am	Coffee Morning
Su 6	10:30am	Café Worship with Deborah Spinks
Mo 7	9:30am-11:30am	Toddlers
Tu 8	9:00 am Z 10:00am -12 noon 12:00-3:00pm	Prayers Tuesday Chatter Lunch club (booking required)
We 9	7:30pm-8:15pm Z	Lectio Divina with Rev Hev and Clive
Th 10		
Fr 11		
Sa 12	10:00 am	Coffee morning
Su 13		10.30am Holy Communion with Rev Hev
Mo 14	9:30am-11:30am 7:30pm-9:00pm	Toddlers House Group in the Snug
Tu 15	9:00am 10:00am -12 noon	Prayers Tuesday Chatter
We 16	2:00pm-3:00pm 7:30pm-8:15pm Z	Bible Study Lectio Divina with Rev Hev and Clive
Th 17	10:00am-12:00noon	Hobbies
Fr 18		
Sa 19	10:00am	Coffee morning
Su 20	2:00-4:00pm 4:00-5:30pm	Community Karaoke Modern Worship with meal
Mo 21		
Tu 22	9:15 am 10:00am-12:00noon	Prayers in the Sanctuary Tuesday Chatter
We 23	7:30pm-8:15pm Z	Lectio Divina with Rev Hev and Clive
Th 24		
Fr 25	2:00pm-4:00pm	Classic Film (<i>Paddington</i>)
Sa 26	10:00 am	Coffee morning
Su 27	10.30am	All age service with Rev Hev
Mo 28		
Tu 29	9:00am Z	Prayers
We 30	7:30pm-8:15pm Z	Lectio Divina with Rev Hev and Clive
Th 31		