



The **HIGHLANDER**

November 2025

**The monthly newsletter of Highlands Methodist
Church, Leigh on Sea**
These are services at Highlands for November 2025

10:30 am Sun 2 nd	Morning Worship Café Church	Jane Fulford
10:30 am Sun 9 th	Morning Worship Remembrance Sunday Parade	Rev Heather Simmons
4:00 pm Sun 16 th	All Age Community Worship & Praise	Matt Bunkall
10:30 am Sun 23 rd	Morning Worship Communion	Rev Heather Simmons
11:00 am Sun 30 th	Morning Worship United Service @Wesley 1 st Sunday of Advent	Rev Steve Mayo



 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 November 2025.

9:30 am Sun 2 nd	Morning Worship Communion	Rev Heather Simmons
7:30 pm Sun 9 th (Refreshments from 7:00)	Gospel Service	Rev Heather Simmons
7:30 pm Sun 16 th	Evening Worship Taizé	
7:30 pm Sun 23 rd	Evening Worship Mindfulness	Rev Heather Simmons
11:00 am Sun 30 th	Morning Worship United Service @ Wesley 1 st Sunday of Advent	Rev Steve Mayo



Public car parking is available almost directly opposite the chapel and continuing under the flyover. It is normally free at the time of evening services but may incur charges at other times.





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	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 mattbunkall@gmail.com	07305 769086
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 highlandslettings@gmail.com	07510 808519

From Your Minister

Although this is the November Highlander I am writing in preparation, so it is still October! I have been invited to a family Halloween Party, and I have just been asked what I am going to wear. My response was "my cassock and clerical collar, of course! I am coming to bless you all with God's grace!". The response was "FABULOUS"!



It made me think about how God is working amongst us even when we separate ourselves from Their love. (I use the term "their" to represent the trinity and avoid God having a gender other than in Jesus. Anyway I digress!) Halloween celebrations here, and abroad, are changing in their nature, they are becoming about family, having fun, visiting neighbours, light shining out from pumpkins and more. Isn't God amazing!

And this is not the first time, think of the history of the Christmas tree which started as part of pagan celebrations and then morphed into being a paradise tree with apples symbolising the garden of Eden and Adam and Eve. Now the Christmas tree is part of our family tradition in church and in our homes, with lights symbolising the light of Christ and often an angel or star displayed at the top.

So my question to you is: 'Where else do you see God's love gently moulding us, leading us and inspiring us out of darkness and into the light?

As we remember those who have fallen for our freedom, and those who continue to fall today around the world as a result of power and

greed, how can we open our hearts and minds to be part of the change to peace? We have started haven't we! Have you read about the 110,000+ poppies knitted for our pier with such community spirit? We **are** finding ways to change war into community and building relationships.

Barbara Glasson (from her book *Peace is a Doing Word*) writes this:

*These ragged sacrifices to fear
quarrels that unravel sense,
arguments that unpick reason,
they wear forbearance thin,
these unyielding knots of war.
Give me at least a sewing needle
to begin amending,
a remnant of light to
join the tattered threads
within embattled arguments.
Assist me in attending
to the frayed tempers,
the snags and tangled ends
of this world-worn holy garment.*



So I leave you, hoping you have had a happy, Holy-Spirit-filled Halloween, blessed with pumpkin pie and children's laughter and that you continue to shine God's light this November.

God bless,

Rev Heather (Rev Hev!) x

Save the Dates

Poppies for the Pier. We blessed 130 poppies that were at our



service on Sunday 12 September. These will be part of a display of about 110,000 poppies that you can visit from 5 to 16 November on

Southend Pier. A big thank you to the ladies of the Chatter group and others who knitted and crocheted a beautiful selection of poppies. Cllr Matt Dent said that: *'Each poppy represents love, respect and creativity, and together they'll form a stunning, emotional tribute...'*

You're invited to **Modern Christmas Songs of Worship** on Thursday 11 December 2025. Join us at Belfairs Methodist Church at 7:00 pm, led by the Circuit worship band and others from across the circuit. All are welcome, refreshments to follow.

At the **Christmas Coffee Morning** on Saturday, 6 December, 10:00 am to 12:00 noon, our Hobbies stall will offer beautiful hand-made Christmas cards and gifts, floral candle arrangements, vintage games and paper chains, a raffle, Christmas refreshments. Please do come and buy some lovely cards, all hand made. Also there will be bead bracelets, tree decorations, floral arrangements and more.

Marjorie

Other Christmas events for your diary

❄ **7** December – Café Church 10:30 – 11:30pm

- ❄ **9** December – Christmas Lunch Club – a wonderful meal for all our Lunch Club members (booking essential)
- ❄ **14** December – Toy Service Parade 10.30am
- ❄ **21** December – 4pm Carol Service traditional carols with a few new ones
- ❄ **23** December 9:15 am-10:00 am – prayer as usual, also lighting candles to remember loved ones at Christmas.
- ❄ **24** December Christingle Service 4:30 pm - for making Christingles and enjoying hot chocolate with all the trimmings. 5:00 pm start for a fun family service.
- ❄ **25** Christmas Day 11:00 am-11:30 am come and celebrate with us the birth of our Saviour Jesus while the Christmas Dinner is in the oven



We pray for our friends who are ill, housebound, or bereaved and for those in residential care: particularly *Peggy Gosling* in Westcliff Lodge, *Irene Downing* and *Doreen Morby* in Brambles. *Glenda Green* in Legra and *Marion Chapman* in Chalkwell Grange. 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 or recovering from surgery.



Flowers

Here are details of flower donations for November

- ❖ 9 Nov - Donated by Mary Mapp in memory of Family.
- ❖ 23 Nov - Donated by June Jeans in memory of husband Eric

Table Tennis

Don't miss the next next games morning on the second Thursday of the month 13 November from 10:00 am-12:00 noon. Also on Thursday 27, both in the lounge.

Random factoid: At the 1936 Table Tennis World Championships the highly defensive players of Poland and Romania played a table tennis match in which the *first point* lasted more than 2 hours. Since then, you'll be glad to know, the ITTF has changed the rules...

Classic Cinema



At the usual time of 2:00 – 4:00 pm you can see this month's movie *The Second-Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* (John Madden 2015).

Sequel to *The Best Exotic...* its ensemble includes Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, Dev Patel, Bill Nighy, Celia Imrie, Penelope Wilton, Ronald Pickup and Richard Gere. There will be a break for discussion during the film.



Lectio Divina – Ad Adventum

Lectio continues with its regular scheduling (Wednesday 7:30 – 8:15 pm on *Zoom* or alternative) but with one adjustment – our texts from 26 November until 17 December (i.e. Advent) will be themed around '*You are a gift made in love*' – the Methodist 2025 Advent & Christmas message. Lectio involves listening, usually 3 times to a text that is read out before sharing our thoughts (but only if you want to). We tend to stay away from deep analysis and insight, rather as a fish avoids dry land.

Hobbies.

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month in Room 1 from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon. The cost is £3 including refreshments. All are welcome, and this is what we will be making in November.

- 6 November. Continuing with the Christmas theme we will be using our skills to design and make cards from recycled cards. An interesting project.
- 20 November. Christmas cards using some lovely die cut Découpage designs. Always a popular activity.

See you there!
Marjorie

Highlands Toddlers

For updates, see the Highlands website for details (www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk) or contact Ros (478631) or Margaret (557512).

From the Editor

The boundary between October and November is one of looking both backwards to summertime and harvest, and then forwards to Remembrance and Advent. We note the turning point of the equinox, and mark it by turning our clocks back. Soon the graves of the fallen will be decorated with wreaths and poppies. The one shown here is in the garden of St Clements Church. It commemorates four brave fishers from Leigh whose names are

- ✦ Harry Noakes
- ✦ Frank Osborne
- ✦ Leslie Osborne
- ✦ Harold Graham Porter

You can find details of this and other memorials at the Imperial War Museums' website www.iwm.org.uk.

If you then search on the reference 22521, you can find the full story of their valiant part in the 1940 Dunkirk evacuation.



Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. [John 15:13 KJV]

This memorial (among others in Leigh) is one of thousands all over UK and all over the world. The number of casualties, military and civilian is beyond counting. Some estimates reach as high as 70 million people, fighters and civilians. Most of us, I think, struggle with numbers like this. It is more meaningful to focus on a much smaller group such as the one above. For this commentary I will

focus on two people – one of them a combatant and the other not.

I was born 10 years after WW2 ended, but I remember family members speaking of 'Alfie', the uncle I never met. Serving as a stoker on *HMS Glorious*, Alfie would have had no chance when the ship was blown up off Norway in 1940. Only about 40 of over 1,200 were picked up from the Arctic Ocean. Many years ago when my father (Alfie's older brother) died, I found among his papers the official Admiralty letter, sent to my grandmother, confirming Alfie's loss. Holding the same letter, I felt a fraction of the pain that was hers, half a century earlier, on receiving that terrible news.

The second person is Eric Ravilious, who lived for some time in Essex, in Gt Bardfield and Castle Hedingham. You may well have heard about him already. As an artist, some of his best work was in English landscapes and scenes such as the one shown here. A Ravilious watercolour from the same period was sold recently by Bonhams for £102,000.



Soon after the outbreak of WW2, Ravilious volunteered as a War Artist. He was accepted and attached to the Admiralty with the rank of Honorary Captain in the Royal Marines. As an artist he insisted on getting as close to the action as possible, including joining bomb disposal experts tackling a mine, and spending time on a submarine on active service.

Ravilious was assigned in 1942 to RAF Kaldadarnes on Iceland. On the day he arrived, a plane failed to return to base, and Ravilious joined the crew of a plane assigned to search for it. The aircraft he

was on also failed to return. There is however a strange link between these two men.

Earlier, in June 1940 Eric Ravilious was assigned to *HMS Ark Royal* as she sailed to Narvik, Norway. From the deck of that ship he painted the work shown here. The vessel in the centre is of course *HMS Glorious*. It was sunk the next day.



Highlands will remember them. You are of course very welcome to join us, or to commemorate, especially, someone with a connection to you or your family.

Andrew

Puzzle of the Month¹

Five people ran a marathon. Alan outran Belinda in a sprint finish, but he couldn't catch Chris. Ella, suffering with cramp, couldn't keep up with Danny, but he finished behind Belinda. What was their finishing order?



¹ Solution page 19

Dining In

Chicken & Chickpea Tagine

A tagine (I'm sure you know) is a casserole dish from North Africa. Typically it's cooked in a distinctively-shaped earthenware pot with a conical lid. But that's not essential. Any covered casserole dish will do. Also, at the point where the recipe advises you to simmer the dish for 45 minutes you can easily opt for a slow cooker. Either way you will end up with a hearty, well-seasoned autumn dish.



Ingredients

800g skinless and boneless chicken thighs
1 tbsp harissa
1 tbsp vegetable oil
1 onion, thinly sliced
1 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp ground cumin

1 tsp tumeric
500ml chicken stock
400g chopped tomatoes
100g raisins
400g chickpeas
Couscous/Mint to serve

Method

1. Cut chicken in chunks into a large bowl, mix in the harissa and chill for 20-30 minutes
2. Fry the chicken/harissa with the vegetable oil in a flameproof casserole 2-3 minutes until browned. Then set aside.
3. Now fry the onions in the casserole, 8-10 minutes until soft.
4. Stir in the cinnamon, cumin and tumeric, return the chicken to the bowl...
5. ...followed by the stock, tomatoes and raisins. Season and bring to the boil, then put the heat down and simmer for 45 minutes
6. Add the chickpeas and simmer uncovered for 15 minutes until the sauce reduces and thickens. Serve with couscous and mint, or your own choice .

November 2025 Calendar

All events are at Highlands unless otherwise stated)

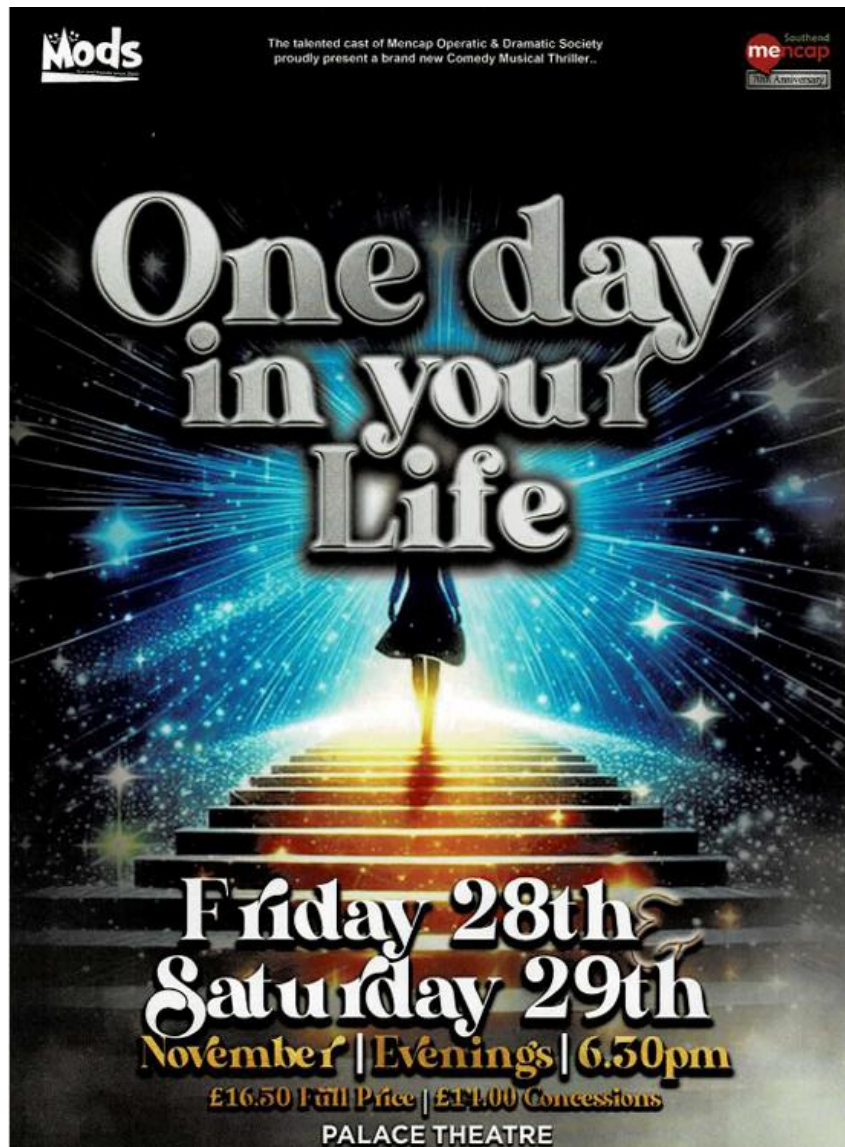
Sat	1 st	8:30 am Circuit Prayers on <i>Zoom</i> (user ID 9681 673 668. Password 377715) 10:00 am – 12:00 noon Coffee
Sun	2 nd	10:30 am - Morning Worship Café Church with Jane Fulford
Mon	3 rd	9:30 -11:30am Toddlers
Tue	4 th	9:15 am prayers in church
Wed	5 th	7:30 pm - 8:15 pm Lectio Divina with Clive Johnson or Rev Heather on screen
Thu	6 th	10:00 am - 12:00 noon Hobbies
Fri	7 th	2:00 pm – 4:00 pm Classic Film and ice-cream: <i>The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel</i>
Sat	8 th	9:00 am – 5:00 pm ABRSM
Sun	9 th	10:30 Morning Worship led by Rev Heather - Remembrance Sunday – Parade
Mon	10 th	9:30 -11:30 am Toddlers 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm House Group in the Snug
Tue	11 th	9:15 am prayers in church 10:00 am -12:00 noon Tuesday Chatter 12:00 noon Lunch Club
Wed	12 th	7:30 pm - 8:15 pm Lectio Divina with Rev Hev and Clive Johnson on Zoom
Thu	13 th	10:00 am -12:00 noon Table Tennis
Fri	14 th	
Sat	15 th	10:00 am Coffee morning 9:00 am – 5:00 pm ABRSM
Sun	16 th	4:00 pm All Age Community Worship & Praise with Matt Bunkall
Mon	17 th	9:30 -11:30am Toddlers 3:00 pm 100 Team Meeting
Tue	18 th	9:15 am prayers in church 10:00 am - 12:00 noon Tuesday Chatter

		9:00 am – 5:00 pm ABRSM 1:00 pm – 2:00 Bible Study/House Group
Wed	19 th	7:30 pm - 8:15 pm Lectio Divina with Rev Hev and Clive Johnson on Zoom 9:00 am – 5:00 pm ABRSM
Thu	20 th	10:00 am -12:00 Hobbies noon. Découpage cards. 9:00 am – 5:00 pm ABRSM
Fri	21 st	
Sat	22 nd	10:00 am -12:00 noon Coffee morning
Sun	23 rd	10:30 am Morning Worship (Communion) Rev Heather
Mon	24 th	9:30 -11:30am Toddlers
Tue	25 th	9:15 am prayers in church 10:00 am -12:00 noon Tuesday Chatter
Wed	26 th	7:30 pm - 8:15 pm Lectio Divina (Advent programme) with Rev Hev and Clive Johnson on Zoom
Thu	27 th	10:00 am -12:00 noon Table Tennis
Fri	28 th	10:00 am - 12:00 noon Hobbies 6:30 pm One Day in Your Life - Palace Theatre – Details below
Sat	29 th	10:00 am – 12:00 noon Coffee 9:00 am – 5:00 pm ABRSM 6:30 pm One Day in Your Life - Palace Theatre – Details below
Sun	30 th	11:00 am Morning Worship – United Service @ Wesley

Humour Corner

Child: *Why do I never see pigs hiding in the trees?*

Parent: *Because they're very, very good at it.*



News of a MODS Production

A young girl in service falls in love with an 'upstairs' family member. The romance ends badly. 50 years later, the house becomes home to a wealthy pop star and her family. It becomes clear however that the house holds many secrets, some of which the pop star's new personal assistant seems to know about...

Humour Corner

Me: I'm at a loss what to do about my dog. He's started chasing anyone that comes past the house on a bicycle.

Vet: Well, the answer's obvious. You'll have to take his bike away from him.



Harvest Thanksgiving

Enormous thanks to everyone who took part. HARP were most appreciative. The need for gifts is all-year-round. Donations are always welcome. You can leave them at the back of the church. Below, is a list of the most useful food and toiletries:

- Tinned meat, fish and vegetables
- Staples such as pasta, rice
- Toilet rolls, tissues, kitchen rolls
- Vegetable oil
- Cereals
- Basic cleaning goods, personal or domestic
- Basically, anything nutritious, not perishable

Update for Internet and Phone Users

Good news and bad this month. I'll do the bad first, and we'll have a quick quiz

What, according to police sources, is the fastest growing crime in the UK?

1. Dropping litter ☐
2. Illegal immigration ☐
3. Internet Shopping Fraud ☐
4. Inappropriate punctuation ☐

If you answered 1 or 2 you're reading too many newspapers. If you answered 4 you're reading the *Highlander*. The right answer is of course 3.



There's nothing fancy about it. You spot goods, or a service, or a show ticket at a good price and send your money off. You never get what you paid for, because the criminals are using fake addresses, fake telephone numbers and a fake website. Often they will use a spoof website that

looks like a well-known legitimate trader. Always remember that if it looks too good to be true, it probably is...

All is not lost. There's lots of advice online, from websites such as www.essex.police.uk. Or try googling 'little-book-of-big-scams'. If you ever get caught, don't feel you've been stupid. Share your story with family or trusted friends. It may be possible for your bank or credit card provider to reverse the transaction.

Now a happier development. Most of us will at some time find (or have already found) a phone that's separated from its owner. Or maybe the owner has had an accident. In both cases you want to use the phone to call its owner or someone else who can help. Problem is... the phone is locked!

The solution is that all modern phones have an emergency button on the unlock screen. Press it, and you'll find a screen you can use to call 999. Or if you don't need 999 (for example you just want to tell the owner you have their phone) there might be one or more contact numbers. If you would like a contact number (or allergy information) on your phone it's easy to put it in. Ask Lesley for help if you like.



ABRSM²

ABRSM are holding music exams at Highlands on the November dates below. We need stewards between about 9:00 am and 5:00 pm (in 4 hour shifts max)

Sat 8 Sat 15 Wed 19 Thu 20 Sat 29

Contact Janet on 07751 316594 to volunteer.

² Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music

Poem of the Month

Felix Crow

By Kay Ryan (1945 -)



Kay Ryan is a poet and lecturer at the University of California. Among her achievements have been US Poet Laureate 2008-2010 and the Pulitzer Prize 2011. She is known for typically short, witty poems with nimble rhythms and surprising puns. Having last month given you an opportunist mammal (Mr Fox) I thought that this month should belong to a very

common city bird, a member of a whole family of species that is successful all over the world

Felix Crow

Kay Ryan

Crow school
is basic and
short as a rule—
just the rudiments
of quid pro crow
for most students.
Then each lives out
his unenlightened
span, adding his
bit of blight

to the collected
history of pushing out
the sweeter species;
briefly swaggering the
swagger of his
aggravating ancestors
down my street.
And every time
I like him
when we meet.

Puzzle of the Month Solution

Let's do the first three. A is in front of B but behind C. So that's **C-A-B**. D has beaten E (so that's **D-E**), but he's still behind B. So the final outcome is **C-A-B-D-E**



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 ³ 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 ⁴ 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

Any material for the December/January BUMPER CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR edition of *The Highlander* needs to be emailed to andrewghyde@aol.com (or put a hard copy in the pigeonholes) by 16 December.

A special reminder for male readers. There is now **only one** shopping day left before Christmas. Yes, it's 24 December as usual.

³ Chloë is a temporary contact while Jordan is on a break

⁴ Every fortnight