



The **HIGHLANDER**

June 2026

**The monthly newsletter of Highlands Methodist
Church, Leigh on Sea**

These are services at Highlands for June 2026

10:30 am Sun 7 th	Morning Worship Café Church	Sue Hockett
10:30 am Sun 14 th	Morning Worship Holy Communion	Rev Heather Simmons
4:00 pm Sun 21 st	All Age Worship & Praise	Matt Bunkall
11:00 am Sun 28 th	Morning Worship United Service at Wesley	Jane Fulford



An apology: the *Plan* shows 4:00 pm services on 19 July and 16 August. Both will now be at 10:30 am

These are services at The Fishermen's Chapel for June 2026.

10:00 am Sun 7 th	Morning Worship Holy Communion	Rev Heather Simmons
7:30 pm Sun 14 th (7:00 for...)	Vespers Gospel Service	Rev Heather Simmons
7:30 pm Sun 21 st	Evening Worship Taizé Worship	King Family
7:30 pm Sun 28 th	Mindfulness	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

**Highlands Methodist Church
Hospitality in the Midst of our Community**

All telephone numbers are '01702' unless stated

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Pastoral Co-ordinator	Jean Edmonds	801517
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From Your Minister

Dear Church Family,

Well! Wasn't our "Flower Festival/Highlands in Bloom" wonderful?

The displays were glorious around the theme of All Things Bright and Beautiful. Each of the Leigh Methodist Churches and our uniformed groups took part and so many of our members and community got involved.



We also raised much needed funds for **Christian Aid** and **Aspirations** charities. Our visitors commented on the beauty, the warm welcome, the delicious cakes, and the feeling of peace in the sanctuary. There are too many people to mention personally but you know who you are ~ so to you ALL, I say a huge thank you for your talent, your gift of time, your care and your love.

This really is a fabulous 100th Anniversary and there is still more to come!

Now let us think about June...

Often, we think of our reflective times as being Advent and Lent, but we also have our month of Bible study in June. I like the idea of the warm summer sun and being outside in nature with time to read and reflect. This month we are looking at the book of Philippians. This short epistle overflows with warmth, hope, and practical wisdom for living a Christ-shaped life. I am running a 4-week course at the Fishermen's Chapel on 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd June, from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. I would love it if some of our Highlands family would join us too. Let me know if you would like to come... all are welcome and you

don't need any prior knowledge.

We've had a slight change of plan for our June event for the 100th Anniversary celebrations. We are now going to have a show *Highlands Royal Variety Performance* on 20th June 2026. 7:00 -9:00 pm. This date happens to be King Charles's birthday so our much-loved Robbie may well make an appearance in a crown and be King Charles for the evening!

Everyone is invited to take part – if you have a talent and would like to be on the stage please put your name down on our list in the Jubilee room. It will be a really fun night.

This event has led me to think about our gifts and how we are invited to share them for the good of others. God wants us all to be our fullest selves. Sometimes that means being brave and being vulnerable, or counter cultural. St Paul says:

Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. [Romans 12 vs 2 NIV]

So come along, encourage one another to shine and be extraordinary – join in our show!

God bless,
Rev'd Heather (Rev Hev!) x

Humour Corner

Man who has just walked into car showroom:

I'd like to talk to you about the silver Mercedes Estate in the front window, please.

Car salesman:

We don't have a Mercedes Estate in the front window, sir.

Man who has just walked in:

You do now.



We pray for our friends who are ill, housebound, or bereaved and for those in residential care: particularly *Peggy Gosling* in Westcliff Lodge, *Doreen Morby* in Brambles, *Glenda Green* in Legra and *Andrew Savile* in respite at Beauleigh Court. 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. Also for those of us whose families are far away.



Table Tennis, Board Games and Puzzles.



We will meet on Thursdays 11 and 25 June.
New members very welcome for Table Tennis, Puzzles and Games in Room 1 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. Come, have some fun and serve a spin, since all are welcome.
Jean Edmonds.01702 801517

Hobbies

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 10:00am to 12:00 noon in Room 1, with a donation of £3.00 including refreshments.

- 4 June. Pebble painting
- 18 June. Card making
- 2 July. Garden spinner using CDs

All are very welcome.



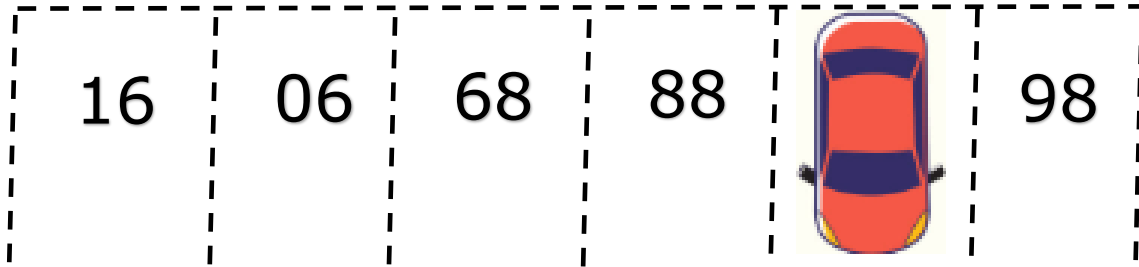
Classic Film Club

This month's feature is showing at 11:30 (for 12:00) on Friday 5 June. *This Beautiful Fantastic* is a 2016 British romantic drama about Bella, a young librarian trying to write a children's book film while coping with obsessive-compulsive disorder and an initially cantankerous widower as her neighbour. The outstanding cast includes Tom Wilkinson, Andrew Scott and Anna Chancellor.



Puzzle of the Month¹

Very simple puzzle once you get the idea. All you need to do is to say the number of the parking space occupied by the orange car.



Highlands Toddlers

We are always delighted to see anyone under school age (and of course their parents/carers).

Thank you for your help with our display for the flower festival.

Just to let you know that there will be no toddlers on Monday 22nd June, but we will be back on 29th of June. just the one week off then looking forward to seeing you all come and have fun.

Ros (478631)

Humour Corner

Caller at the door: *Hello! I'm your piano tuner.*

Householder *I' didn't ask for a piano tuner.*

Caller at the door: *No, but your neighbour did...*

¹ Solution page 19

From the Editor

Firstly – can you work out who or what on earth the 2½ lines below are referring to:

1955-6 by *A. G. Gentry*. Brick, in a very stripped-down Gothic style that echoes the Neo-Perp chapel of 1927 alongside, now used as a hall.

This is in fact the entry in Sir Nicolaus Pevsner's *Buildings of England* relating to Highlands. The architect was A G Gentry, but I can't trace any other public buildings by him, so I have nothing with which to compare.

Pevsner's description 'very stripped-down' doesn't seem to signal huge approval. This is a 20th-century classic style, stripped of ornamentation. It was popular with governments of all kinds for official buildings (such the Helsinki Parliament shown here) because it projected efficiency and power.



Pevsner was happier with the older church (now the hall) which he described as Neo-Perp. 'Perp' is of course an abbreviation of Perpendicular Gothic, a style from the 17th century and earlier that was revived by the Victorians and still popular in the 1920s. The Hall's broad windows (pointy at the top) are typical perp. They contrast with the more modern shape of the building. Hence neo-perp.

Over the last few weeks many visitors, for the first time or recently after some time, have admired the building. To our credit one visitor (who happened to be carrying out a quinquennial inspection) remarked that the buildings were in good condition. The conclusions that I reach are:

1. Local residents, and visitors from further afield, love Highlands as a social and recreational hub for all to enjoy
2. For the moment the (unlisted) buildings are at very little risk, but we need to keep on top of small repairs.

We have a responsibility to the future of this building, and we all know that promptly dealing with a small snag prevents a big one. So I'd like to recruit a task force. My first step will be to ascertain what is needed, and who might be available during the next few months. I'd be very grateful to hear from you. Please indicate whether you are up for the challenge by signing the list in the Jubilee Room.

Where necessary we'll continue using professionals. However I've listed some areas where I think we could safely spruce up Highlands with some of you helping!



June 2026 Calendar

All events are at Highlands unless otherwise stated)

Mon	1 st	Toddlers 9:30
Tue	2 nd	9:15 Prayers + 10:00 Tuesday Chatter 7:30 pm Summer Bible Study @ Fishermen's
Wed	3 rd	Lectio Divina 7:30 pm (online with www.whereby.com)
Thu	4 th	10:00 Hobbies
Fri	5 th	Film Club ' <i>This Beautiful Fantastic</i> ' 12 noon (11:30 for refreshments)
Sat	6 th	Coffee Morning 10:00 onward
Sun	7 th	10:30 Morning Worship (Café Church) Sue Hockett 4:00 pm Rev Steve Mayo Testimony Service
Mon	8 th	Toddlers 9:30
Tue	9 th	Prayers 9:15 Tuesday Chatter 10:00 Lunch Club 12:00

		7:30 pm Summer Bible Study @ Fishermen's
Wed	10 th	Lectio Divina 7:30 pm (online with www.whereby.com)
Thu	11 th	10:00 Table Tennis 7:30 pm House Group
Fri	12 th	
Sat	13 th	Coffee Morning 10:00 onward
Sun	14 th	10:30 Morning Worship (Holy Communion) Rev Heather Simmons
Mon	15 th	Toddlers 9:30
Tue	16 th	9:15 Prayers + 10:00 Tuesday Chatter 7:30 pm Summer Bible Study @ Fishermen's
Wed	17 th	Lectio Divina 7:30 pm (online with www.whereby.com) FIFA World Cup England v Croatia 9:00 pm (Dallas or TV)
Thu	18 th	10:00 Hobbies
Fri	19 th	
Sat	20 th	10:00 onward Coffee Morning 7:00 pm Highlands Royal Variety Performance
Sun	21 st	10:30 Morning Worship (3 rd Sunday) Matt Bunkall
Mon	22 nd	No Toddlers
Tue	23 rd	9:15 Prayers + 10:00 Tuesday Chatter 7:30 pm Summer Bible Study @ Fishermen's FIFA World Cup England v Ghana 9:00 pm (Boston or TV)
Wed	24 rd	Lectio Divina 7:30 pm (online with www.whereby.com)
Thu	25 th	10:00 Table Tennis
Fri	26 th	
Sat	27 th	Coffee Morning 10:00 onward FIFA World Cup England v Panama 10:00 pm (New Jersey or TV)
Sun	28 th	11:00 Morning Worship (United Service at Wesley) Jane Fulford 4:00 pm Rev Steve Mayo ordination at Shrewsbury Abbey (or online). https://www.shrewsburyabbey.com/
Tue	30 th	9:15 Prayers + 10:00 Tuesday Chatter

Some items subject to change – do check

100th Birthday Celebrations & Thanks

The biggest celebrations of all in May were those that included the Flower Festival – surely an annual event in the making. I'll let Jean take up the story:

A very big thank you to all who took any part the Flower Festival. If you could not be there for it, you missed a real treat.

Thank you for the wonderful floral designs beautifully arranged by folk from (our sister churches) Belfairs, Wesley and the Fishermen's Chapel, also Showstoppers, Lunch Club Toddlers, Hobbies and our very talented friend Sue from Leigh Floral group. Alongside was Eve, contributing beautiful designs that came alive in the Communion area and around the Church, ensuring that All Things really were Bright and Beautiful.

Highlands salutes you all.

Comments poured in, saying what a wonderful atmosphere prevailed around the whole weekend as Highlands came alive with friends from our sister churches - new friends and old. It was great to welcome them all.

A great big 'thank you' goes to the team who have worked tirelessly for months to produce our lovely outdoor garden. Heather's knees must be worn out and Marion's arms are surely much longer. Also hard at it have been the two Jackies and Sheila, Michael and Paul watering and the Guides weeding.



Thank you to our Uniformed organisations for the pots of flowers. Special thanks to Robbie for running the raffle. And Robbie himself asks me to thank everyone who kindly donated prizes. Finally - thanks to the bunting hangers, and anyone else who helped in any way. It was quite an effort, but all worthwhile

Jean Edmonds
Hobbies and Pastoral Co-Ordinator.

Alzheimers



I'm happy to confirm that Lesley and Andrew completed their trek, taking in Fulham, Millbank, Westminster, Soho, Mayfair (passing the address once home, though not at the same time, to G F Handel and Jimi Hendrix) and back to the start via various Royal Parks

With the last few pennies counted, it seems that you donated just under £909 in total, plus a little extra from Gift Aid. About £400 came just from the coffee morning so there must have been some sleepless nights...

Anyway, thank you to everyone who contributed. All of us, I think, know of someone who is affected by this disease. All of us have made a slight difference. We must carry on.



You can find out more about fighting Alzheimer's from www.alzheimers.org.uk

Andreas

To our great regret Andreas has had to leave his post for health reasons. He writes:

I have served the...Circuit for 8 years, and it has been my privilege to shape its direction and assist in its mission, particularly the many projects and tasks entrusted to the care of the Circuit Office. I'm immensely proud of the things achieved, growth that the Circuit has accomplished, grateful for the circuit staff I have worked with and in more recent years working alongside Jess to form a Circuit Office that is a source of unity and communion. I am pleased to have been able to help the congregations and churches of Southend and Leigh, and [have much enjoyed] the friendships I have made along the way.

If anyone would like to extend their wishes to me, please feel free to contact at andreasbotzios@gmail.com

Working Party

If you can help out with any of these tasks, please get in touch with Andrew in person, or by phone 01702 473111 or email andrewghyde@aol.com or text/WhatsApp 07938 536921 or put your name on the list in the Jubilee Room

- Project management
- Pressure washing
- Crazy paving repair
- Weeding
- Big weeding
- Clearing rubbish from edge of property
- Internal painting and refreshing
- Refreshing painting on steps
- Investigation of water butt
- Preserving & repairing fences/gates

Upcoming Events in Highlands 100

- **June** - Music & Theatre. Our unique *Highlands Royal Variety Performance* takes place. Detail p19.
- **July** – Showstoppers. The *Music Man* team will give another of their extravagant performances.
- **August** – Holidays at Home. Our catering and entertainment teams present holiday fun in the Highlands tradition
- **September** – Barn Dance. Do-si-do and strip the willow to your heart's content, to the music of the *Famous Potatoes*.
- **October** – Panto! Your favourite Highlands stars from way back are definitely NOT returning. OH YES THEY ARE!

You'll find full details of each of these events (and everything else) in your monthly copy of the Highlander. To be added to the electronic mailing list, write to andrewghyde@aol.com. Or you can download a copy from www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk or our Facebook page Highlands (Leigh) Methodist Church.

Folk who don't use computers can usually pick up a hard copy at the church.

Steve Mayo

Rev Steve's Testimony Service will be on Sunday 7th June at 4pm at Raleigh MC, SS6 7JP, all are welcome.

Next edition

The next *Highlander* will cover July and August 2026 in a single edition. Contributions for either month need to be with me by 26 July. Email andrewghyde@aol.com or use the pigeonhole.

Dining In

Raspberry and chocolate ice cream terrine [V]

This looks really impressive but it's a doddle to make. It uses condensed milk so there's no need for an ice cream maker.

The ideal way to cool your guests on a hot summer's afternoon

Ingredients

225 g raspberries
1 tbsp caster sugar
1/2 lemon juiced
400 ml double cream
1 tbsp vanilla paste



275 condensed milk
200g dark chocolate,
melted and cooled
slightly

Serves 4

Method

1. Line a 900g loaf tin with 2 sheets of overlapping baking paper, leaving some overhanging the tin
2. Put 175g raspberries, lemon juice and caster sugar in a pan over medium heat for 3 mins to soften. Tip into blender or jug and blitz until smooth
3. Whisk double cream, vanilla and condensed milk until soft peaks form. Add raspberry purée and stir just a few times
4. Tip remaining raspberries into lined loaf tin. Cover with one third of cream mix. Drizzle over half the chocolate.
5. Add another third of cream, all the remaining chocolate and then the rest of the cream.
6. Use the overhanging baking paper to cover the top of the tin (it needs to be fully covered) and then freeze for 8 hours.
7. To serve, remove from freezer for 10 minutes. You could decorate the top by drizzling a little more chocolate over the top or adding raspberries

Poem of the Month

Pam Ayres (1947-)

Although not festooned with conventional academic achievements (2 'O' levels in fact) Pam Ayres is a National Treasure. Her work has no pretensions, and her unmistakable Oxfordshire accent is a gift gained in a rural council house upbringing. In 1975 an appearance in the TV talent show *Opportunity Knocks* set her on the road to fame, including Glastonbury Festival appearances in 2022 and 2024 that were much acclaimed. She tends towards humorous themes, but can also tackle more serious themes. Such as this:



Woodland Burial

Don't lay me in some gloomy churchyard shaded by a wall,
Where the dust of ancient bones has spread a dryness over
all,
Lay me in some leafy loam where, sheltered from the cold,
Little seeds investigate and tender leaves unfold.
There kindly and affectionately, plant a native tree,
To grow resplendent before God and hold some part of me.

The roots will not disturb me as they wend their peaceful
way,
To build the fine and bountiful, from closure and decay.
To seek their small requirements so that when their work is
done,
I'll be tall and standing strongly in the beauty of the sun.

A Day Out

For anyone that fancies a day out in a car my first advice would be to wait until the bank holidays have finished!

However, do you love gardens? If you don't mind a 65-mile drive (about 1 hour 40) and the Dartford Crossing, then the National Trust Property at Nymans near Haywards Heath is a must. The gardens are stunning, and a fascinating tour is available.



Then if you still have some energy, carry on for about 10 miles (25 minutes) to Wakehurst where a wild botanic garden awaits you with 500 acres of diverse landscapes and plants from across the globe. You can also visit the



Millennium Seed Bank. Managed by Kew Gardens, the MSB contains over one billion frozen seeds from all over the world, with many threatened species kept safe on behalf of governments, perhaps until humanity can learn to respect and look after

them.

If you happen to have NT and Boundless membership, free entry is possible. This of course will enable you to spend money in the cafés instead.

Puzzle of the Month Solution

The orange car is in space 87. This is easily established by noting that it's between spaces 86 and 88.

(Oh, by the way, the spaces are marked the other way up...)



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	Jordan Rutherford 07804 065933
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 ² 7:00 to 9:00 pm	Jacqui Hendle 07961 545037
Toddlers	Mon 9:30 am to 11:30	Ros: 478631

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 Every fortnight