



The **HIGHLANDER**

October 2026

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

These are services at Highlands for October 2026

10:30 am Sun 4th	Morning Worship	Paul Saunders
10:30 am Sun 11th	Morning Worship Café Church	Sanya Strachan
10:30 am Sun 18th	Worship & Praise Harvest Festival	Matt Bunkall
10:00 am Sun 25th	Morning Worship Communion	Pastor Mark Waghorn

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.

Church flowers for October 11th will be donated by Sylvia Cornwell in memory of granddaughter Ellie.



Highlands Methodist Church

Hospitality in the Midst of our Community

All telephone numbers are '01702' unless stated

Minister	Pastor Mark Waghorn pastormarkwaghorn@gmail.com	07879 232231
Secretary to Church Council	David Watson (minutes) Vanessa Mayes)	557702 (473787)
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Church Treasurer	Steve Watson	07543 905641
Pastoral Co-ordinator	Jean Edmonds	801517
Safeguarding Officer	Judy Taylor	
Church Flowers	Jean Edmonds	801517
Lettings/Use of Premises	Vacant highlandslettings@gmail.com	07510 808519

From Your Minister

Seasons of Change and Harvesting Faith



As we enter October we come into a new season of Autumn. The colours of the trees are changing, and the evenings draw in. Creation reminds us that God is always moving his people into new seasons. As I come to you as your new Pastor, we also enter into a new season as a church.

This October we celebrate 100 years of Highlands Methodist church. One hundred years of Mission in this community; one hundred years of people's lives that have been impacted and transformed through the love of

Jesus; one hundred years of relationships that have been built; and one hundred years of memories and people who have influenced our lives. I am sure that there have been many changes Over those one hundred years, some good, maybe some not so good.

Change is not always easy because it involves loss and uncertainty. A loss of what is known and dear to us and uncertainty of what is to come. But change is inevitable in all of life. We should celebrate, cherish and learn from the past - but also to look forward to the future.

Isaiah [43:19 NIV] says
See, I am doing a new thing...

We celebrate and give thanks to God for the past one hundred years, and we pray for many more fruitful years to come. God is still at work in our church right now. He continues to shape new relationships, plant new visions, and prepare new opportunities for ministry. He invites us to notice it, celebrate it, and participate in it.

This October, we also celebrate Harvest, a time when we thank God for His beautiful Creation and provision for us.

In 1 Corinthians [3:6 NIV] Paul uses a farming analogy to show how Christians work together but it's God who brings the growth.

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.



Over the past 100 years, many seeds have been planted. Others have come along and added to the previous work, and God has brought growth through that work.

As your new pastor I hope that I can bring new gifts, fresh vision, different experiences, and a new season of ministry. But the church does not ultimately depend upon my strength, personality, or ability. It belongs to Jesus. My calling is to be faithful - to preach and teach God's word, to love and shepherd, encourage and lead God's people, and to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Equally, all of us as the church are called to pray, serve, support, and walk together in unity. There will be things we do differently, there will be changes and challenges that we will need to face together. But instead of focusing on what is changing, let us focus on what never changes: our God, His Word, and our mission to make Jesus known.

According to Ecclesiastes [3:1 NIV]
There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.

God ordains every season for a purpose. Harvest is a season when we reap what has been sown physically. But spiritually, as we celebrate 100 years of Highlands Methodist Church, may we reap the fruits of prayer, kindness, and faithful service. May we also evaluate our hearts, embrace God's guidance, and prepare for the years ahead.



Blessing for October:

- May October be a month of warm beginnings.
- May God knit our hearts together in unity.
- May His “new thing” spring up clearly among u
- And may our church step into this season with grace, joy, and expectation.

From the Editor

Lesley and I are both looking forward to a few days exploring the Scottish islands of Arran, Harris and Lewis. This issue of *Highlander* is lighter than usual as a result. However we'll look forward to some spectacular scenery, and if we're lucky, some unfamiliar wildlife.

Anaera



Humour Corner (Medical Section)

Patient: *I keep thinking I'm a barometer*

Doctor: *Probably you're just under the weather*

Patient: *I'm convinced I'm a dumpling*

Doctor: *OK but avoid getting in a stew.*

Patient: *I think I'm a passenger lift*

Doctor: *Hmm – Probably you're coming down with something*

Patient: *Why do I think I'm a wheelbarrow? Is it serious?*

Doctor: *No but try not to let others push you around.*

Patient: *I think I'm a tennis racket*

Doctor: *You're just highly strung. Meanwhile is your National Health Service improving?*



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 recovering from surgery. Also for those of us whose families are far away.



Hobbies

I apologise to Marjorie and the group. The message for their group was accidentally “elbowed” off the page last month. I also apologise on their behalf for use of the ‘C-word’ below. I appreciate that they had little choice. Here is their message:

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 10.00 am to 12:00 noon in Room 1 and we ask a donation of £3.00, which also covers refreshments.

Thursday 1 October. Card making using die-cut découpage designs (Christmas).

Thursday 15 October 15. We will continue the theme of Christmas, using vellum to make cards.

All are very welcome.

Table tennis and Scrabble

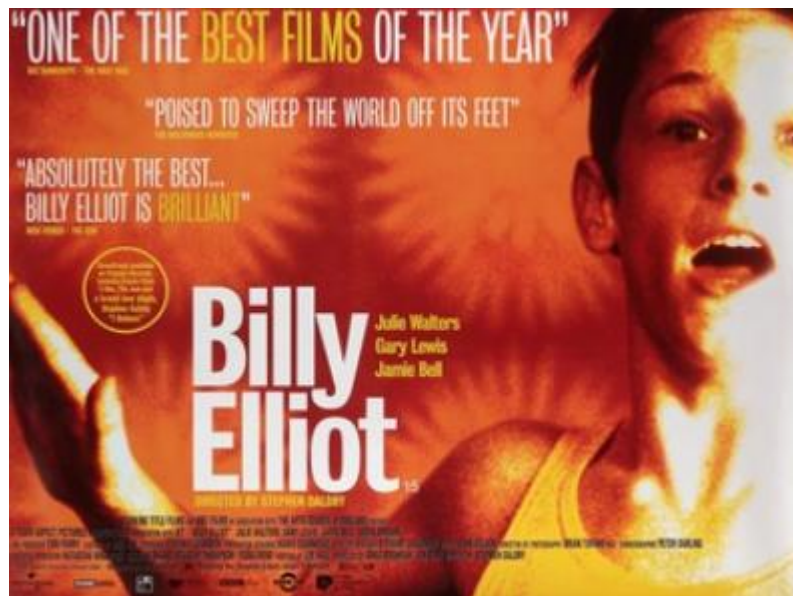
Try table tennis for fun, together with games and refreshments. We meet from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays (8 and 22 Oct).

Do come along and join the fun. All are welcome.
Jean Edmonds 01702 801517



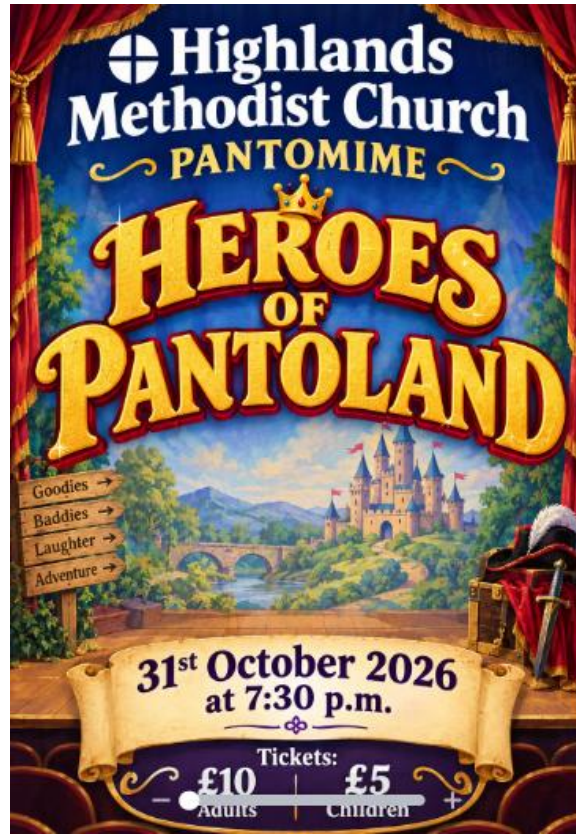
Classic Film Club

This month's feature is showing at 11:30 on Friday 2 October. *Billy Elliot* (2000 dir Stephen Daldry)

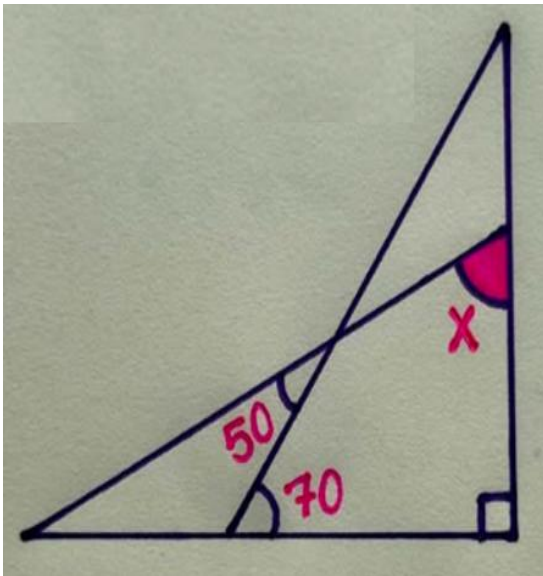


is the story of a boy growing up in a Durham mining village against the background of the 1984-85 miners' strike. Billy wants to become a ballet dancer. His widowed father prefers other career options for him. The cast includes Jamie Bell as Billy, Julie Walters, Stephen Mangan and

Patrick Malahide. Suggestions welcome for next month.



Puzzle of the Month¹



If you paid attention during school maths, you'll find this insultingly easy. Otherwise, you'll get the gist quite quickly.

All that is required is to state the value of 'X' in degrees.

The drawing is not to scale, but all lines may be assumed to be straight and all given angles accurately measured.

¹ Solution page 22

100th Birthday Celebrations - Upcoming Events

HEROS OF PANTOLAND

Casting is underway for our pantomime on Saturday 31 October 7:30.

If you want to be in the pantomime please contact me on 01702 801517. We still have parts for anyone – old, young and inbetween, backstage as well.

Whilst we appreciate that many folk enjoy the fun of Halloween Highlands church is offering this production as an alternative . It will be a truly memorable show. Tickets on sale soon.

Remembrance Garden

I hope that you have noticed – better still, sat in - our new garden in front of the hall. It is absolutely splendid and has started many conversations with passers-by.

There will be an 'Official Opening' on 18 October but before that, I would like to thank the gardening team - Marion, Robbie, Heather, Jackie and all the team (sorry if I've forgotten anyone) for their inspiration and hard work.

We are still a little short of funds to pay for everything - so there will be a coffee morning on 3 October in aid of the garden fund.

Next edition

The next *Highlander* will cover November 2026. Contributions for this issue need to be with me by **25 October** Please do not ignore this deadline! Email andrewghyde@aol.com or use the pigeonhole.

Dining In

Cauli with Halloumi, Chickpeas & Lemon Bulgur

Let's be honest about cauliflower. It's rather dull. But we overboil it then expect it to do the heavy lifting. If we would caramelise it, maybe support it with flavours and spices, it becomes the Harry Kane of veg – scores every time. This quick and easy recipe serves 3 (or 2 plus tomorrow's cold lunch).

Ingredients

1 medium cauliflower cut into florets plus any young leaves	2 heaped tsp baharat
400g tinned or jarred chick peas	1 tsp sea salt
1 red onion, peeled and cut into 8	½ tsp caster sugar (opt)
250g halloumi, in 2cm chunks	200g bulgur wheat
2 garlic cloves, grated	200ml hot veg stock
2 tbsp olive oil	1 lemon, juice and zest
	2 zest strips of another lemon
	2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
	Seeds of ½ pomegranate
	15g fresh mint

Method

1. Heat the oven to 200°C (fan 180°C, Gas 6)
2. Tip the cauli, leaves if any, chickpeas onion and halloumi into a large roasting tin. Mix in the garlic, olive oil, baharat, salt and sugar (if using it).
3. Transfer to the oven and roast for 25 minutes on top shelf.
4. Meanwhile tip the bulgur wheat into a medium roasting tin. Top this with the hot stock and strips of lemon zest. Cover tightly with foil.
5. When you have 15 mins left on the cauli mix at step 2, pop the bulgur in the oven underneath the cauli.
6. Mix the lemon juice and zest and extra-virgin lemon oil. Stir half of this through the bulgur wheat and drizzle the other over the cauli.
7. Add salt to taste then scatter pommy seeds and mint over the bulgur then serve.

If you can't locate baharat, ras-el-harout or 50ml or more rose harissa will do. Spice Boat on London Rd have all.

Poem of the Month

I tried here to find something autumnal without going for the usual suspects such as Keats . Here is a very traditional poem by John Clare (1793–1864). Clare came from a farming background in what is now Peterborough, and much of his work reflects this. He suffered throughout his life with chronic mental illness.

Autumn John Clare

I love the fitfull gusts that shake
The casement all the day
And from the mossy elm tree takes
The faded leaf away
Twirling it by the window-pane
With thousand others down the lane.

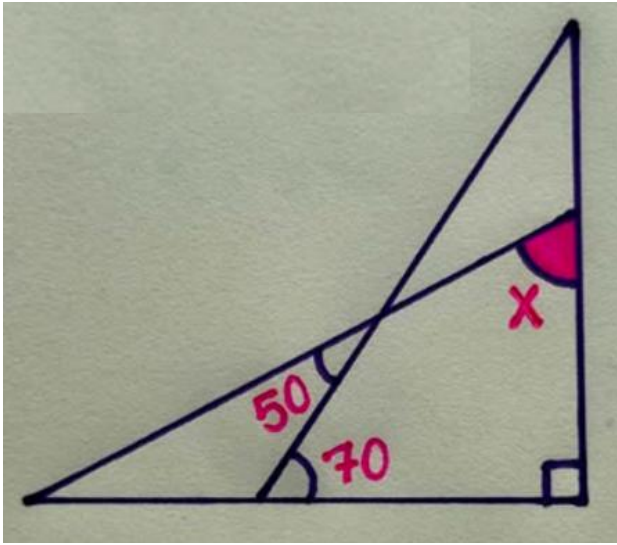
I love to see the shaking twig
Dance till the shut of eve
The sparrow on the cottage rig
Whose chirp would make believe
That spring was just now flirting by
In summer's lap with flowers to lie.

I love to see the cottage smoke
Curl upwards through the naked
trees
The pigeons nestled round the coat
On dull November days like these
The cock upon the dung-hill crowing
The mill sails on the heath a-going
The feather from the ravens breast
Falls on the stubble lea.



The acorns near the old
crow's nest
Fall pattering down the tree
The grunting pigs that wait
for all
Scramble and hurry where
they fall

Puzzle of the Month Solution



We know that the bottom-right corner is 90° . Also, that the three angles of a triangle total 180° . So the top angle is 20° ($180-90-70$).

The angle opposite the 50° angle is also 50° so we easily work out that the obtuse angle next to X is 110° ($180-20-50$).

Hence the value of X is 70°

Joseph Zammit Music Events

- Saturday 3 October 2026, 3pm at Southend High School for Boys - "A Southendian Showcase" - featuring a mixed afternoon of music with something for everyone, with voice, organ, instruments and more in a variety of styles.
www.osos.org.uk/events
- Sunday 11 October 2026, 4pm at Holy Trinity Church, Rayleigh - "Choral Evensong for Harvest" - join us for a beautiful music-filled service as part of our Harvest celebrations, with music to include Stainer's "Ye shall dwell in the land" and favourite harvest hymns. <https://www.parishofrayleigh.org.uk/choir>
- Saturday 7 November 2026, 2:30pm at Southend High School for Boys - "In tuneful accord" - featuring award-winning choir Gaudeamus singing favourite choral works accompanied by the magnificent War Memorial Organ at the school. www.osos.org.uk/events



Some More Future Dates

25 October
8 November
15 November
5 December (Sat)
13 December

100th Anniversary Service
Remembrance Sunday
Light Show/Indoor Fireworks
Christmas Fayre
Toy & Gift Service

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
Classic Movies	1 st Friday	Matt 07305 769086

Social and Recreational

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

² Every fortnight

Dear Church family,

This is not a minister's letter, as hopefully you read my 'goodbye letter' last month and you are now reading something from Pastor Mark; this is a 'thank you' note.

THANK YOU! I am so appreciative of your generosity for my leaving gifts. My beautifully chosen flowers of bright colours representing my strong beliefs of being a fully inclusive church, the music edition of Singing the Faith ~ a book that stays open when I play the piano, and the vouchers to choose lovely plants to grow in my garden and a hose reel that works; all SO thoughtful.



I know that my "leaving card" is on its way. The first one disappeared in the depths of Highlands and no doubt will turn up in a few years, maybe Clive buried it in the time capsule for the 100th Anniversary – haha! Anyway, lovely Lesley is asking you all to write again - please do, because I will treasure it..

See you in Holy Communion!

God bless you all,
Heather (Rev Hev!) x

