



The **HIGHLANDER**

February 2022

The monthly newsletter of Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh on Sea

11:00 am Sun 6 th	Morning Worship Café Church	Kathy McCullough
11:00 am Sun 13 th	Morning Worship	Worship Leaders
11:00 am Sun 20 th	Morning Worship Communion	Pastor Steve Mayo
11:00 am Sun 27 th	Morning Worship	Bob Briant

Services above are all live, but details may be altered to follow guidance from the government or from Methodist Church UK. We'll love to see you, but please wear a mask unless you are exempt.

 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

Minister	Pastor Steve Mayo pastorstevemayo@gmail.com		483827
Secretary to Church Council	Kathy McCullough/Margaret Wood		714528
Church Stewards	Andrew Hyde Steve Jones Donald Mayes Jean Edmonds Andreas Botzios (also Web Editor)		473111 553898 473787 525250
Worship Leaders	Jennifer Courtenay Frank Edmonds		556140 525250
Church Treasurer	David Watson		555702
Property Co-ordinator	Anne Lane annelane8@btinternet.com	01268	755291
Children's Worker	Ros Bryant		478631
Pastoral Co-ordinator	Jean Edmonds		
Church Flowers	Jean Edmonds		525250
Lettings/Use of Premises	Les Davis		558381
Older Persons' Worker	Julie Peek		479804

From Your Minister



February is a strange month. We're still in the grip of winter, but yet we start to see glimmers of the hope of spring as the days are starting to lengthen.

Some say that February is a month of reflection; where the blues of January subside, and we start to look forward to sunny days and the joys of nature bursting forth.

January can be a reminder that life isn't always easy. There are things that happened to us that can make our lives seem pretty dark and cold. None of us is exempt from these types of events in our lives. But as with the hope and anticipation of February and spring, we too will come out of the other side of our worries, fears and problems. Most of our difficulties are based upon earthly woes to do with money, employment, illnesses or family.



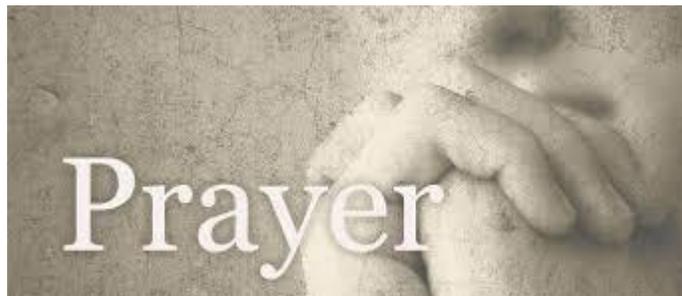
But Jesus tells us in John 16:33 that He has overcome the world:

'I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the

world.' [NIVUK]

So, as we come through the harshness of winter, we too, will come through the harshness of our problems and concerns and will bathe in the sunshine of God's peace for our lives.

Every blessing,
Pastor Steve, February 2022
01702 483827
pastorstevemayo@gmail.com



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

We send our condolences to the family of Suzanne Whiteley, who died on 13 January after a long illness. Many of our members will remember Suzanne as a bubbly personality, who attended St Bernard's school in Westcliff and became an actress, making TV appearances in *On the Buses* and *The Good Old Days among many other*. Her husband Clive predeceased her, but she leaves two sons; David, a presenter on ITV East, and Jonathan, a leader at 3rd Chalkwell Bay Scout Group.

Congratulations to David and Eira Sperring on the 22 January birth of a son, Osian¹, a younger brother for Iolo, second grandson for Lesley Hyde, and second great-grandson for Brenda Davis.

¹ Pronounced O-shun, with the 'O' short, as in 'off'. a Welsh name derived from Irish poet Oisín (literally: small deer)

From the Editor

Politics has been much in the news over the past few weeks. I don't want to add to the noise. However, I think democracy matters. Churchill famously said that:

Democracy is the worst form of government – except for all the others that have been tried.



Democracy does give us a way for opposing views to be resolved into action. Where everyone acts fairly and within the rules, democracy forces those who hold power to listen to those with none, and to be accountable if they don't listen. We may well get fed up with the endless cross-examination of politicians (and of the politicians trying not to answer) but the aim is to bring about, in an orderly way, the changes that need to happen.

Democracy respects reasonable dissent and peaceful protest. Even so, we will sometimes be disappointed with the outcomes. God recognises this and promises to cheer us up:

...seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. [Mt 6:33-34 NIVUK]

The Methodist Church seeks to be democratic in its approach, both nationally, through The Methodist Conference, and locally through the Church Council that you elect. In fact, Highlands, having at present a modest membership, can admit any and all members to its Church Council:



Snippets

Church Flowers...

...on 13 February have been donated by Maureen Kelly in memory of Friends and Family.

Christian Aid: Afghanistan

Christian Aid has welcomed the money from the collection over Christmas from Highlands church amounting to £308 and £20 in Gift Aid. I am sure everyone realises how desperately this money is needed to help combat famine, conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic amid freezing conditions. Our prayers are very much needed, and I give thanks for the Christian Aid partners working among them.



Jean Edmonds. Christian Aid Co Ordinator.

Hobbies.

We are pleased to be meeting together in safe conditions with sanitising and mask wearing to help us feel comfortable.

We meet next on Thursday 3 February when we will try our hand at quilling and iris folding for cards decoration. On 17 Feb we'll have a go at Drawing and Flower arranging. All are welcome. we meet at 10:00 am until 12:00 noon.

Jean Edmonds 525250 Julie Peek 479804

Highlands Toddlers

Please make a note in your diary to support our Coffee Morning on Saturday, 30 April, 10:00 am to 12:00 noon.

Ros and Margaret

A Grand Day Out

If you like watching and learning about wildlife I recommend visiting Welney Wetland Centre a wildfowl and wetland reserves managed by the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT). Welney is home to literally thousands of water-loving birds. Some are permanent residents, others migrate huge distances from the coldest places on earth to spend winter in relatively warm East Anglia.

It's a long but good drive, as it's 12 miles north of Ely, 26 miles (42 km) north of Cambridge. The

visitor centre has an art gallery, gift shop and café. In the reserve are nature programmes, pond dipping, trails and hides.

Particularly good for less nimble visitors is that the superb main hide is completely accessible for wheelchairs, using lifts and flat walkways. The highlight for many visitors will be the feeding



sessions, in particular the floodlit session after dusk, when hundreds of swans arrive from all points of the compass. This makes for a memorable experience, with the swans flying majestically overhead in formation, calling to each other, before settling on the water.

You can find out more at

www.wwt.org.uk



Dining In

I've been making cakes for Wesley's Sanctuary Café for a few months now. This is open every Friday and Saturday between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. One of the cakes they asked for was a Victoria Sandwich, which was not a cake I had made regularly – I'm not sure why not. It's just been that chocolate, carrot and lemon drizzle have been my cakes of choice. Anyway, I've found a fool proof and popular recipe that I thought I'd share with you.

- 200g softened butter (although Mary Berry says that cold baking spread is just as good)
- 200g caster sugar
- 200g SR flour
- 4 large eggs, beaten
- 2 tbsp milk
- 1 tsp baking powder

Combine all ingredients together and beat well. Divide mixture between 2 x 20cm sandwich tins, greased and lined. Bake at (fan) 170° for 25 mins.



Allow to cool completely. (Don't even think of putting the filling in when it's still slightly warm.) I fill mine with strawberry jam and buttercream, with jam on top of the buttercream, but you could use double cream if the cake is going to be eaten quickly. My buttercream is made with 100g butter, 140g icing sugar and 1tsp vanilla essence.

I use the whisk attachment on my food processor to force as much air into it as possible. Finally, give the top a dusting of sifted icing sugar.

I did have a disaster a few months ago – I used strawberry jam that was slightly soft-set and put this underneath the butter cream. By the time I'd got the icing sugar from the cupboard, the cake looked like something worthy of appearing in *Casualty*. The jam had slid out from under the buttercream and down the side of the cake. It did not look good even though it still tasted scrummy. There was no time to bake another.

So, I split the sponges and took off as much as possible of the cream/jam filling. With a plain round scone cutter, I cut small circles of cake from each sponge cake and then split each little round in half. I gently swirled the jam into



butter cream and used this to sandwich my little cakes together. A pretty paper case, a good dusting of icing sugar and *voilà!* You have mini-Victoria sandwiches. As well as the offcuts to use in a trifle or as a perk for the baker's husband. And I won't mention the fact that I was in a bit of a rush and the cakes may have been ever so slightly warm.

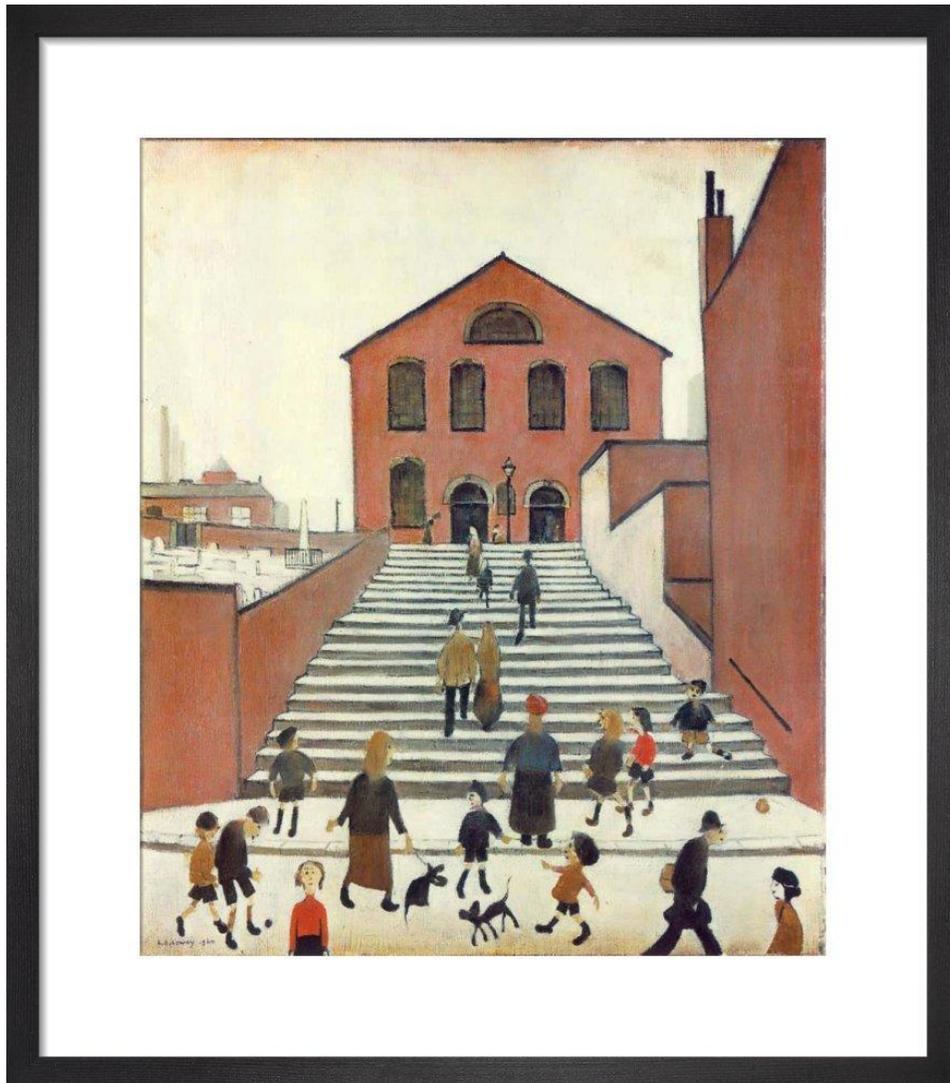
Humour Corner

Yes, I know that it's not fair or nice to laugh at others' mistakes, but we can make an exception for some howlers by schoolchildren. Enjoy some of their *aperçus* on [Religion...](#)

- *The result of the Reformation was that the people could choose to be Catholics or pugilists.*
- *Solomon had 300 wives and 700 cucumbers.*
- *David was a Hebrew King skilled at playing the liar. He fought with the Philatelists, a race who lived in Biblical times.*
- *The chief missile of the Church of England is the Prayer Book.*

Puzzle of the Month Solution

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. A planet in our Solar system | Jupiter |
| 2. A city in Texas | Austin |
| 3. A metallic element | Mercury |
| 4. A 1970s US President | Ford |
| 5. A roman goddess | Venus |
| 6. A motor car manufacturer | Seat |
| 7. A district of London | Vauxhall |
| 8. US soap opera 1978–1991 | Dallas |
| 9. Something you would find on a bus | Wheel |
| 10. A confectionery brand | Mars |





Jobs for the Garden

From our Special Gardening Correspondent

Looking in various magazines at the list of jobs to do in February – chit potato tubers, force rhubarb, prune winter flowering shrubs that have finished flowering, prune wisteria, divide snowdrops etc – the one that really caught my eye was ‘start sowing seeds’.

To me, this always lifts my mood and get me looking forward. It’s not one of those ‘tidying up tasks’ which are very important but a looking forward to spring with its longer and warmer days. But it’s very easy to get carried away and end up with seed trays everywhere, hundreds of that one plant that have all germinated and oops, it’s still too early to put them in the ground.

It is much cheaper to grow plants from seed and much greener too, but seeds have got more expensive, so we don’t want to waste them. This year, I am trying to buy from UK sources, checking that there are not just packaged in this country but grown here too.

Anyway, here is my list of how to get organised:

- If using packets of seeds from earlier years, check out what you have got and their ‘best before’ dates. ‘Best before’ dates are just a guide but if the date is 2016, the seeds may not germinate well. So, if it’s something you’re keen to grow, maybe it’s time to buy a new packet.

- Make a plan – what do you want to grow, when should the seeds be sown and when will they be ready to go in the ground.
- Plan too for successive sowings – you want salad crops to continue all summer long rather than having a glut in May.
- How much room have you got for your new little plants – you don't want to be overwhelmed by hundreds of young plants all needing to be planted out at the same time.
- Finally, order those seeds.

Whilst waiting, it's time to check out the seed trays and heating mats and to choose your compost. Another resolution I've made – along with getting organised – it to try to be peat-free this year. And remember, always sow thinly and be ruthless with your thinning out.

For me, I'm starting off by sowing my favourites, sweet peas and then sitting down with a cup of tea to make a plan.

SGC

Humour/Poem

This limerick, recommended by Lynn Gregory, illustrates the possible pitfalls of tinkering with English spelling in order to produce a more consistent set of rules...

A merchant addressing a debtor,
 Remarked in the course of his lebtor,
 That he chose to suppose
 A man knose what he ose
 And the sooner he pays it, the bebtor!

Poem of the Month

Nominated by our occasional organist and more regular local councillor Ashley Thompson, this may well be a second outing for this poem by W E Henley (1849–1903) but it's well worth repeating. It's a testament of overcoming adversity – ill health in Henley's case - through grit and determination. The title indeed means 'unconquered' and at first reading it seems to lack any obvious spiritual context. However, the final verse refers to Matthew 7:14'

'But [strait] is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.'

Hopefully not too few.

Invictus

W E Henley 1875

Out of the night that covers me
Black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance,
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate
I am the captain of my soul.

SERVING the COMMUNITY 7 Days a Week

[Ed: I'll be making these entries as I confirm they have restarted, so errors and omissions will occur. If so please contact me and I'll correct them, and fill the blanks.]

Children and Young People

Group	Time	Contact
Scouts	Thu 7:30 to 9:00 pm	Lesley Bacon 07947 116891
Cubs	Thu 5:45 to 7:15 pm	Lesley Bacon 07947 116891
Rainbows	TBA	TBA
Brownies	TBA	TBA
Guides	TBA	TBA
Rangers	TBA	TBA
Toddlers	Mon 9:30 am	

Fellowship Groups

Group	Time	Contact
Prayer ³	Tue 9:00 to 10:00 am	Andrew Hyde 473111
Chatter	Tue 10:00 am to 12:00 noon	Jean Edmonds 525250

Services to the Community

Group	Time	Contact
Lunch Club	TBA	TBA
Staying Steady	Wed 1:00 pm	TBA

Social and Recreational

Group	Time	Contact
Hobbies	1 st /3 rd Thu 10:00 am to noon	Jean 525250

³ on Zoom

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 March 2022 issue should be emailed to
andrewghyde@aol.com before the **deadline of Sunday 20**
February, and earlier if possible. No email? Don't despair; just
telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.

