



The **HIGHLANDER**

June 2021

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 Communion Pastoral Visitors' Dedication	Pastor Steve Mayo
11:00 am Sun 20 th	Morning Worship	Worship Leaders
11:00 am Sun 27 th	Morning Worship	Rev Norman Hooks

These services are scheduled to be held live in Highlands Church and may also be transmitted on Zoom to anyone who cannot attend.

For the live services, please wear facial covering (unless exempt), observe distancing and reserve places. If, as is likely, there are changes, these will be notified by email or on Facebook.

 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

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Older Persons' Worker	Julie Peek	479804

From Your Minister

My wife has just bought a hanging tomato plant which already has tomatoes on it as it was cultivated in a green house.

This got me thinking about the fruit we produce as Christians and what it takes for us to yield good fruit. Here I don't mean fruit like bananas or apples, but spirit fruit as described in Galatians 5; spiritual fruit such as



The actual plant!

'Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.' [Galatians 5:22-23 NLT]

But just as with tomatoes, if we have poor soil, we will yield a small crop, if any, of spiritual fruit. So as Christians, we need to provide good 'soil' for our spiritual fruit to develop and ripen. Our hearts need to be suitable places where good spiritual fruit can be grown. A bad heart, equals poor or no spiritual fruit. A good heart, equals good and bountiful spiritual fruit.

The Bible supports these truths:

'A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart.' [Luke 6:45 NLT]

We can only produce from what is in our hearts.

So how do we get a good heart? By going to the Gardener of our hearts, God. He can take out the things which so easily entangle and stop us producing spiritual fruit for Him. This truth is exemplified in this illustration:

'A minister, who always preached with passion and zeal to his congregation, often received positive comments on his service. However, one man who came and spoke to him every week, but would not pass comment on his preaching, but instead talked about his garden.

This went on for some months until the minister went to see the man's garden. It was completely dead. Nothing was growing there. You could see evidence of where the man had been trying, but to no avail. The minister didn't know what to say, but before he knew what he was doing, he too was now digging the garden. The minister was somewhat confused with the evangelical benefits of digging over a garden, but the man seemed so keen he didn't have the heart to stop.

Then all of a sudden, the minister hit something hard under the ground. On further investigation, it proved to be a WWII bomb. After the police and the bomb disposal team were called, it turned out that the bomb had never exploded on impact but had still spilt open and left shrapnel all over the garden. The German-made bomb made with a high content of lead, and this lead had actually poisoned the soil in this man's garden, leaving it dead for the past 60 years or so. Once the shrapnel had all



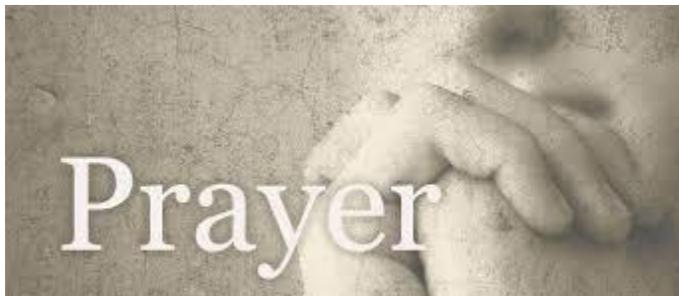
been recovered, and the soil changed, the garden was back on its way to recovery.'

Maybe your heart needs digging over?
Maybe there are things in your life you need God to remove?



If so, go to the greatest Gardener ever, God, and He will cultivate in you a good heart enabling spiritual fruit to be produced.

Every blessing,
Pastor Steve, May 2021
pastorstevemayo@gmail.com
01702 483827



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.

As I write this **Julie Peek** is recovering from a fall down some stairs and a night in hospital. I pray that by the time you read this she'll be much better.

From the Editor

For many of us, emerging gradually from 'lockdown' is turning out to be a strange experience. I'd take a guess that a large majority of you have now been vaccinated against Coronavirus COVID-19, but despite the assurance that this gives us, we return with some anxiety to places and pastimes we once took for granted.

After dipping our toe in the water (so to speak) we get used to our new freedom and begin to relax. Then, of course, the rules change again, and we have a new set of things and places to which we must become accustomed.

For my part, I am shortly going for two weeks to Alnmouth in Northumberland. A lovely part of the world that I know (or perhaps, *knew*) quite well. It has an area 1½ times that of Essex with a fraction of the population, occupying wild moorlands and welcoming villages, and fringed with 60 miles of beautiful coast. While I am there, I will lead guided walks on behalf of HF Holidays¹, acting as tour guide, safety adviser and host in the hotel where the guests and I will be staying.

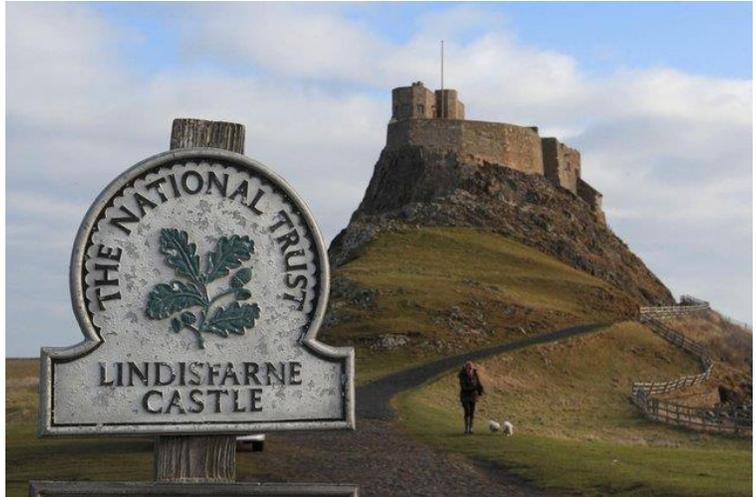


I've done this many times before, right across the UK (and also in Europe, when travel was possible). I should approach it with confidence, but despite my stock of experience, I feel some apprehension and stress. Things are not quite the same. I must observe social distancing, wear a mask in public areas of the hotel and eat alone. The walks I can do are prescribed to avoid having to use coaches, so I can't take people to favourite places like Alnwick and Lindisfarne. The best I can do, before I travel, is to tell

¹ Other walking holiday providers are available.

myself it will be 'alright on the night', as I am sure it will. Probably.

So, I can understand if some of you are hesitant about travelling, going into shops and cafés, and (dare I say it?) returning to church. But please be assured that your minister



and your stewards and your Methodist church are doing everything possible to ensure your safety and comfort when attending for worship, fellowship and prayer. Finally, there is a protection greater than all of these:

*The Lord is my light and my salvation; I will fear no one.
The Lord protects me from all danger; I will never be afraid.*
Psalm 27

Soon – singing?

Anne

Humour Corner

Her: *Who was that on the phone dear?*

Him: *Cash*

Her: *Cash who?*

Him: *Yes, just some nut...*

Snippets

Baptism

Sunday 23 May saw Pastor Steve conduct the christening at Highlands of **Amelia Mary Nicholson-Goodhew**. A joyous occasion for everyone concerned, not least because it is the first at Highlands for many months. Congratulations to proud parents Vicky and Ian, and welcome of course to Amelia.



General Church Meeting

The General Church Meeting will be held after the service on Sunday 18 July. Do please make a note in your diary.

The Sanctuary Café – Café for the Community.

Wesley Methodist Church is opening a new Sanctuary Café.

Starting on Saturday 22 May, the café will be open on Fridays from 8:30 am-12:00 noon and Saturdays 9:00 am-12:00 noon, serving teas, coffees, homemade cakes, biscuits and soft drinks.

Making use of the large, accessible space in the church Sanctuary, the Sanctuary Café will provide a relaxed atmosphere for the whole community to enjoy; with a play area and buggy park for those with young children, a quiet space for private reflection and prayer, and a social space to meet up.

A History Snippet

Dorothy Allen has pointed out, with reference to the list of ministers published last month, that that she was christened at Highlands by Rev Gerald Lansley in 1932. Her mother and Mrs Lansley became good friends.

To save you doing the arithmetic, that's an astonishing 89 years of membership.

Moves are afoot to commemorate all our ministers with a suitable permanent display. Watch this space...

Puzzle of the Month²

This is a neat little mathematical puzzle.

Sharon decided one Monday morning to buy her mum some flowers for her birthday, so she started putting some money aside each day. She saved one new penny on Monday, two new pence on Tuesday, three on Wednesday, and so on, increasing the amount each day by 1p. In due course, she had exactly the £3.00 she needed to buy the flowers and present them to her delighted mum on her birthday.

On which day of the week did Sharon's mum's birthday fall that year?

(If you want to show off, work out how long it would have taken Sharon's granny to save exactly £3 with old pence, before decimalisation in 1971.)

Humour Corner

Man in park [to woman sitting on bench]: *Does your dog bite?*

Woman: *Certainly not.* [dog immediately bites man]

Man: *Ow! You said your dog didn't bite!*

Woman: *That's not my dog.*

² Solution page 16



Jobs for the garden **From our Special Gardening Correspondent**

The SGC is not available this month so we decided to share with you our visit to the Essex Wildlife garden at Warley Place.

You may have read about Warley Place in the May issue of the RHS magazine – but we missed reading about it there – and only got to hear about it through a friend. It's a lovely wild place, the complete opposite of Hyde Hall. We love the wonderful Hyde Hall but thought Warley Place a hidden treasure.



The gardens were created by the Willmott family who moved to Warley Place in 1875. All were keen gardeners, but it was Ellen Willmott who transformed the grounds. To get some idea of her importance, she was one of only two women awarded the RHS Medal of Honour in Queen Victoria's Jubilee Year, 1897. (The other woman was Gertrude Jekyll, the great

garden designer). By 1907, Ellen was one of England's most famous gardeners.

Unfortunately, despite inheriting 2 fortunes, she spent so much on her gardens, that the money ran out. At one point she had 104 gardeners at Warley Place. As the RHS magazine says, it was a powerhouse of horticultural innovation; although now there are only glimpses of the original structures including glasshouses, a conservatory and rock gardens.

The house (shown here in its heyday) was demolished to make way for a housing development but happily planning permission for this was refused. In 1977, Essex Wildlife leased 16 acres of the overgrown garden for a nature reserve. There are a team of volunteers preventing nature from taking over completely and you can follow the paths round the gardens. Whilst there are no beautiful borders as at Hyde Hall, it's a great place for wildlife and there are boards and an information hut to explain what's there.



There are no facilities there but the Thatcher's Arms pub is now open, just at the entrance (<https://thethatcherswarley.co.uk>) and Warley Place does have its own small car park. It's about a 30-minute drive from here and the reserve is open during daylight hours. You don't need to book.

The full address is Warley Place Nature Reserve, Warley Road, Great Warley CM13 3HU.

Deputy SGC

Music Matters

From our Special Music Correspondent:

The organ makes different sounds. How do you know which stops to use?



The short answer is that it is down to the organist's judgement and preference. However, there are set patterns of good practice. Stops (those switches or 'tabs' above the keyboards or 'manuals') indicating different sounds by their very names are generally divided into strings, flutes, reeds and diapasons. The

last of these are stops which usually have a fairly thick, voluminous sound and provide the real substance of many combinations.

The general idea is that the stops imitate real instruments but can be used, of course, in combination, just as in an orchestra. Strings stops include, for example, viola, dulciana or voix céleste; flutes are usually self-explanatory but are sometimes labelled 'flöte' or 'gedackt' after the German; reeds include oboe, clarinet, krummhorn, trumpet and trombone. Then some additional stops give you the octave (eight notes) above or, more rarely, below the note you actually press on the keyboard. Some even give you – to shrill effect – twelve or nineteen notes above. Additionally there are stops called 'mixtures' which, on their own, sound just like a bag of whistles. These are what gives the organ a very bright sound.

Organ music is written on three staves, the uppermost for the right hand, the middle for the left hand and the lowest for the pedals

played by the feet. Very often, on the uppermost stave, a melody is written on its own. In this case, the organist will use two manuals, the right hand for the stop chosen for the melody on one manual, and the left hand with different accompanying stops on the other manual. Precisely which stops are chosen is the organist's choice. He or she will decide according to the character of the music. You often find this type of arrangement in Bach's chorale preludes where chorale melodies (that is to say Lutheran hymns) form the basis of an imaginative piece of music. Congregational hymn playing is different. Here the organist will normally play with both hands on the same manual, but vary the stops according to the words, the occasion and the size of congregation.

What is the importance of music in worship?

In the Bible there are many references to song and making a loud noise, and often to instruments such as the harp, with which to praise the Lord.

David says in Psalm 28:7

'and with my song I will praise him'.

Need one further justification? Music has played a part in worship in



all the world's great religions, but none more varied than in the church of the West. In the eastern Orthodox and Coptic churches there are traditionally no instruments. Martin Luther and later the Methodists Congregational particularly promoted hymn singing. Up to that time, music was generally left to choirs – when there was one; or simply the priest and his assistants would chant alone. In the Church of England, after the Reformation,

hymns were promoted less so than in both the Lutheran and

Methodist denominations where hymns have been prominent in worship from the start. Singing together in worship is an outward demonstration of faith and community. The verses of hymns often give us the right words at the right time; we take them with us when we leave the church building and recall them later.

I mention the words particularly as traditional hymns are a veritable treasury of English religious poetry and contain a rich and



memorable vocabulary. It is sad to think that many young people rarely or never experience them. Some traditional hymns are, however, puzzling without explanation. As a child I sang 'There is a green hill far away, without a city wall'. I thought about it but could not work out why anyone would want to build a city wall round a green hill anyway. Which green hills have city walls? If only someone had told me that 'without' in this sense meant 'outside', it would have ended my confusion.

Similar confusion came with 'The Lord's my Shepherd; I'll not want'. Surely you *do* want the

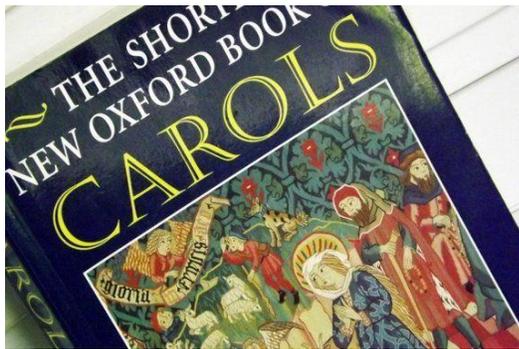
Lord as your Shepherd! But you can't sing the semi-colon to make it clearer.

But rather than change the words, such as possibly 'There is a green hill far away outside a city wall', the words can be explained. Altering the elegance and beauty of the original words (by pictured Irish poetess Cecil Frances Alexander) seems unnecessary and unattractive, but this has not stopped countless revisions in recent years, fed to congregations under the pretext of 'changing times'. The new language tends not to express the message convincingly.

I remember at school, the new RE teacher (later principal at a theological college) triumphantly announced a 'new' hymn in assembly 'God of Concrete, God of Steel'. The words were ugly and profane, we felt embarrassed singing them; and the tune was more suited an open-air attraction at the Kursaal of the 1960s.

Melodies are also important, and those of the greatest hymns are elegant, majestic, solemn, joyful, memorable and above all sensitive to the text. They should lend emphasis subtly or forcefully to the key words as required.

The harmonisation of a hymn tune is almost as important as the hymn tune itself. A good harmonisation gives the melody foundation and substance and speaks to our emotions just as well as the words. A poor harmonisation can destroy the effect of a noble melody. A few years ago, I stumbled on a shocking



harmonisation of 'God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen' in none other than the Oxford Book of Carols. The traditional melody of this carol is probably older than the sixteenth century. It is modal (does not use a conventional modern scale) and does not fit well with a nineteenth-century harmonisation. The same applies to many folk tunes used

as hymns, such as 'Kingsfold'³. It is like trying hammer the proverbial square peg into a round hole. It seldom works. Harmonisations should bring out the inherent character of the melody, not force it into a straitjacket.

SMC

(continues next month)

³ See 'The Silent Stars Shine Down' StF231 or 'I Heard the Voice of Jesus' StF248

Puzzle of the Month Solution

It will take 24 days, or two weeks and two days, for Sharon to save up exactly £3.00. ($1+2+3+4\dots+23+24=300$). So her mum's birthday must have fallen on a Wednesday.

Pre-decimalisation, it would have taken 38 days to save £3 in the same way. Mind you, for £3 you would have got a large bouquet, and one shilling and ninepence left over for a bag of sweets.

From the Archive.

from our Special History Correspondent Andrew Saville

The following notes are summarised from the history of Highlands, a pamphlet written by George Thompson Brake in 1995. I have also been reading notes prepared by Rosalie Bryant and Frank Edmonds and have included extracts from their albums, photographs and news-cuttings. This edition of 'From the Archive' commenced in last month's copy of the Highlander.

We pick up the story in 1926. A group of enthusiasts, many from Wesley, led by superintendent Rev Henry Maddock, agreed to hire St David's Hall for six months. They appointed 19 trustees, some with familiar local surnames; two members of the Osborne family and Harold Petit linked to local fishing businesses, plus Albert Stibbards, husband to Winnie, whose home now houses the Georgie Porgie nursery on the London Road. There was also Henry Hankin, possibly father of Roland Hankin and grandfather to Wendy and Janet.

Rev Maddock recommended purchase of the site, as we know it, at the junction of Sutherland Boulevard and Olive Avenue for £560 (equivalent to £35,112 today) with a bank loan. The inaugural meeting of the Highlands society took place on Saturday 30 October 1926 and the first service the following evening. Thirteen Sunday School teachers enrolled fifteen youngsters that afternoon.

Earlier in October the group had discussed various plans for a church, appointed an architect, bought chairs, hymn books, offertory plates, a poster board and made plans to canvas the



neighbourhood. The cost of the new church hall was to be £4,035 (£252,995 today) and with various grants the debt to be financed with a loan was just £1045 (£65,500 today). The hall would be brick and Bath stone with a tiled roof and oak beams inside. If they



needed to they could in the future add a second storey. Stones were laid on 27 April 1927. Other local Methodist churches each engraved a stone.

The trustees asked for the western side of Sutherland Boulevard be made up. The opening was set for 17 September 1927 and the Wesley Guild swiftly got the area to the north laid out as a tennis court, for use by members and adherents of the church.

The neighbourhood developed rapidly and soon the trustees contemplated a new church. The first reference in the trustee meeting minutes is in 1934. A grant was possible but first the outstanding debt had to be paid, and the trustees set out to do that. They prepared preliminary plans in February 1937.

Unfortunately, bureaucracy slowed the programme down. A new trust was appointed, but the plans were so detailed that a building committee was needed. They who suggested some minor alterations but, perhaps because of the time that had elapsed since the original plans had been tabled, the architect was not prepared to make any alterations. The original cost had been £5,600, but with increased

costs of £1,100 and the cost of £500 (£34,520 today) for an organ the total was £7,200.

Another architect then produced a different layout with an estimated building cost of £7,140 (approx. £493,000 today) and the building committee had to decide which scheme would be preferred.



The more economical scheme was adopted and a Ways and Means committee appointed to raise the funds. An anonymous donor offered £2,000 (£138,000 today) so it was agreed to raise the balance by March 1939. However, in February 1939 a letter was received from the London Mission committee to say they doubted if the anonymous donor could raise the money and they were not convinced that employing such a large sum to build a church, which would only be used twice each week, could be justified.

Remarkably, the £2,000 was received by June 1939, so stone laying was set by the building committee, this time for June 1940 with the opening of the new church was to be in October the same year. However, in September 1939 WWII intervened and the trustees became preoccupied with air raid precautions. Blackout fittings were installed and the corridor to the rear of the hall reinforced, railings were removed, a canteen made ready, and a rest home set up for people made homeless by bombing. In the spring and summer of 1940, the Highlands Estate was evacuated.
To be continued.

A Poem for June

Two poems actually. The first is one that Jennifer Courtenay quoted in a recent Facebook entry. I thought it so apt that I resolved to borrow it. It seems not to have a title, unless of course you know better.

The second poem has a common theme that you will spot at once, but it is quite different in structure, which is less formal – almost a prose poem. The recent change in the weather and the swell in the chorus of birdsong out in the woods both inspired its selection.

Untitled

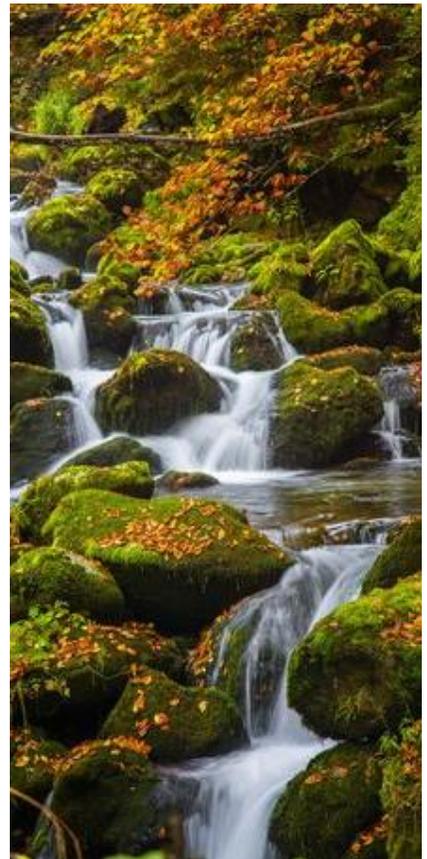
Eileen D Nunns

The rippling stream, the babbling brook,
Why don't you stand and have a look?
In this world of stress and strain,
A quiet moment stills the pain.
A clear blue sky - the grass so green,
A wonderful, wonderful, sight to be seen

Babbling Brooks

Christian Bixler

I love the way the thrush is
singing, down by the cold-water,
swift-water, streaming; its babbling
the thrush mistook, for laughing in
the madding way, that streams take on,
when lost in glee, in Summer's gladding,
madding sway.



SERVING the COMMUNITY 7 Days a Week

Children and Young People

Fellowship Groups

Services to the Community

Social and Recreational

These services are suspended at the moment. We now feel confident that they can be restored soon.

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 July 2021 issue should be emailed to andrewghyde@aol.com before Sunday 20 June. No email? Don't despair; just telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.



Hainault, looking over London. The 'Shard' is easily spotted