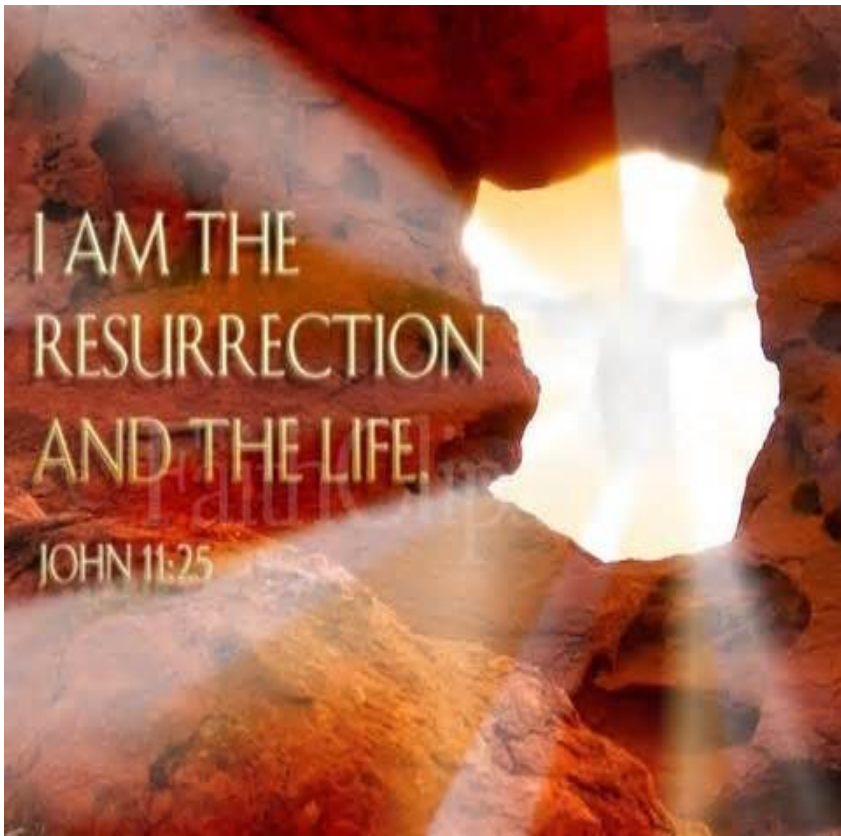


150 Years of Worship and Outreach

Central United Reformed Church Hove



April 2015

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Sunday Youth Ministry

Mrs. A. Austen

Mrs C. Vaughan

Boys' Brigade
(Mondays)

Mr. C. Jukes

Girls' Club
(Tuesday)

Mrs. S. Hill

Tuesday Fellowship
(Alternate Tuesdays)

Mrs H Brown

Men's Fellowship
(Third Wednesday)

Mr. P. Gear

Welcome Break
(Wednesdays)

Mrs. P. Macaulay

Bluebird Parent & under 3s Group

Mrs K. Hancox

Church Web Site

Mr John Brewster

Church Hall Tel: 01273 734162

Email: info@centralurchove.com

MISSED CHURCH?

You can listen to the Sunday Morning Service by going to our website:
www.centralurchove.com and hearing the recording.

Dear Friends,

Spring has sprung - life returns to a dead world - trees that had died in Autumn are budding and blossoming again - flowers that had withered away are blooming (in fact they're blooming lovely!) The sun is shining - the birds are singing, and as the prophet Isaiah proclaimed: "the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands" (Isaiah 55 v. 12). It is as if nature itself is rejoicing in the new life of Spring after the dying of Autumn and the death of Winter!

How appropriate that this is the season of Easter. Whereas we don't really know when Jesus was born, we do know when he died. It is clear from the Gospels that it was at the time of Passover, which moves around with the phases of the Moon, as Easter does, but it is always in the Spring. I wrote last month about Jesus and "the conclusion of his ministry in crucifixion." Which sounds a bit final, but as we know, that was not the end, but a glorious beginning - the beginning of new life in resurrection which is the amazing truth for us too who believe in Jesus as Lord.

This is what Easter is all about - a wonderful celebration of Christ's victory over death and new life in Him. Christ is alive, and we too will never die! Since the beginning of time, mankind has longed for immortality. It has been featured in myths and legends down through the ages, but it has become an astounding reality in Christ. Everything that seemed totally disastrous about 'Good' Friday was turned into the glorious new day of Easter Sunday morning.

It is good for us to go through the events of Holy Week, trying to identify with Jesus in His Passion, and then we can truly rejoice in the experience of Resurrection Day - a day that changed the world for ever. Jesus was crucified on a dead tree, but in Spring, trees and Saviours come back to life!

God bless you this Easter,

Roger

?

?

**THE BIG QUESTIONS
OF
LIFE AND FAITH**

Discussion Group at Hove Methodist Church,
Portland Road.

7.30 p.m.

27th April

11th May

18th May

?

?

FAMILY NEWS FROM CENTRAL

At Easter, when we remember Jesus' sacrifice for us and His subsequent Resurrection, it seems appropriate to celebrate the fact that **Abigail**, Graham and Jinny Smith's daughter, decided to make a public affirmation of her faith on 8th March by being baptised at Highfield Church, Southampton, near the university where she is studying. We are happy that she has come to have a close relationship with her Lord and pray that she will continue to be blessed by a growing and deepening faith. At the service, Abigail was supported by her family and friends and we too can offer our prayerful support over the coming years.

"Continue in the things which you have learned and have been assured of, knowing of whom you learned them, and that from a child you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith in Jesus Christ." 2 Timothy 3 vv 14&15.

(Abigail's Testimony and pictures of her Baptism may be found on Pages 12 & 13)

This Easter we are also glad to welcome **Kim Wood** back after her visit to South Korea, where her father is very unwell. We are sure Roger is also glad to have her home once more to support him as he approaches a very big change in his life – and ours. As most of you already know, **Roger** is due to retire from the ministry at the end of April. His last service with us as our minister will be on **Sunday 19th April**, when he will lead our Morning Service. To mark this special day, the morning service will be followed by a Bring and Share lunch, when everyone will have the opportunity to wish Roger and Kim well, in a more informal, relaxed way. This will be followed by a short act of worship in the afternoon, as there will be no evening service. Please come and join the church family as we express our appreciation of Roger's work and friendship and Kim's loyal support and friendship. We will miss her smile in the ensuing months.

(Bring and share means **bring** a plate of food, which will be *shared* communally with others as we all sit down together.)

We give thanks that **Celia and Peter Elliott** have returned safely from France, where they were visiting their daughter, Sally Marteau, who has been very ill for the past few years. The doctors have now reconsidered their diagnosis and the subsequent treatment. It is still a very unusual and rare illness and, as you can see from what Peter writes below, the

THE JUNCTION

Last month at The Junction we started off the evening with a challenge. This tied in with our theme of “Links and Community”. On every table they had to try and build the biggest tower out of marshmallows and spaghetti. There were some interesting attempts. We then showed a short video of “A Night With The Boys of The Tenth” - very interesting to see what our Boys Brigade get up to on a Monday night. You can view this video on the website .

Our special guest was Andy Lowe, the minister of Hove Methodist Church on Portland Road. Andy spoke of his 22 years in ministry and how he lost his faith as a teenager and then came back to God through the help of his friends. Andy also spoke about being the Superintendent of the Brighton and Hove Methodist Circuit, which he oversees and helps to look after a number of Methodist churches in the area.

We heard from our monthly edition of “Gears Years” where Pete Gear told us his third and final instalment of a story he wrote a few years ago whilst barging on The River Wey with Pam and Andy Stringer. Next month Pete will talk about his time wandering the graveyard - sounds interesting.

We also showed two music videos, the first was “Stuart Townend – Promise of Ages” and the second was “Worship Central – The Way” advertising a Christian channel on Freeview Channel 65. TBN UK which shows all sorts of different interviews, music etc. Have a look and see what you think.

Our Bible verse was from Ecclesiastes 4 v. 12 "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken". This then brought us on to the prayer activity of plaiting three cords, representing The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit. Using teamwork everyone was able to make a plait and Roger brought all these prayers together and led us in prayer. We closed the evening by singing “Blessed Be Your Name” led by Andy Lowe on guitar.

You can find all the videos mentioned and some pictures on our Facebook Page, just search for “The Junction” or speak to John Brewster. If you missed The Junction you can now also listen to it on the website. The next Junction is on 12th April. We hope to see you there.

John Brewster - one part of The J-Team



SPRING SUPPER

Saturday 25th April

6.30 pm

Tickets £8.00

£4.00 (for under 12s)

Now available from members of the Social
Activities Committee.

treatment Sally is now undergoing is debilitating and harsh.

“Sally has started a strong course of chemotherapy and feels very weak, prior to a stem-cell transplant. (It used to be called a bone-marrow transplant.)

This will be Autologous Transplantation, where she will receive her own stem cells, which have been stored in a freezer.

After 4 years of pain and distress they THINK her blood might be the problem.

Your prayers have been very much appreciated.”

Please continue to pray for Sally and her children, for Celia and Peter and Nikki, her sister. May they be granted the strength, comfort and cure they need. We surround them all with our love and prayers.

Jan Owen has moved into St. Christopher’s Rest Home in Hove and her new address may be found on Page 4. We understand that she has settled in quite happily and pray that she continues to be content and safe there.

The Easter Sunday Service this year will have an extra dimension to it as Rev Jenny Morgan ordains **Clare Popley** as an Elder to serve in our church. Clare was unanimously elected to be a serving Elder at the AGM in March and we are grateful to God and to Clare that she is willing to undertake this form of service. We, as a congregation, will support her and indeed all serving and non-serving Elders with our prayers.

At the same AGM the membership also voted unanimously that the non-serving Elders should continue in the role they have undertaken since last year.

Looking forward a few weeks to Sunday 19th, during Roger’s retirement service he will have the special joy of admitting into membership, **Mrs Betty Briggs**. What a positive note of farewell! Betty has had close connections with Central over many years and has over the past two become a regular worshipper with us, so we are delighted that she has decided to join us in a more committed way. May she continue to find fellowship and a warm, deeper faith over the coming months.

We are grateful to all those who consented to continue to be responsible for various tasks in the church and we are particularly grateful to those who agreed to take on new responsibilities. Thank you to every one who helps to keep Central functioning.

The atmosphere at the Church AGM was positive and supportive and the results of such forward thinking can be seen in the wonderfully generous way in which people responded to the Gift Day Appeal. Chris Hill, our Treasurer, is smiling broadly!

The past year has had its difficulties but by the Grace of God and everyone working together we have come through. We go forward in to a new year placing our trust in God with faith and confidence.

Fellowship of Prayer:

Tebello Sibanda, Peggy McMillen, Clive and Shirley Hamblin, John Gilson, Janet Folkes.



TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP

Welcomes friends old and new

Starts 2.30 pm.

14th April “ My Poetry” - John Harries-Rees.

28th April - auctioneer, Mr Inman;
bring along an item and have it valued.

All talks finish with tea, cakes and a chat

All Welcome.

CHURCH CALENDAR

APRIL

SUN 5	EASTER SUNDAY	
	Seafront Service	8.00 am
	(Meet at bottom of Grand Avenue)	
	Rev Roger Wood	
	Easter Breakfast	9.00 am
	New Hall	
	Family Easter Service – Holy Communion	10.30 am
	Ordination of Clare Popley as an Elder	
	Rev Jenny Morgan	
	No Evening Service	
SUN 12	Family Service	10.30 am
	Rev. Peter Elliott	
	Evening Worship – The Junction	6.30 pm
Tue 14	Tuesday Fellowship – My Poetry	2.30 pm
	John Harries-Rees	
Wed 15	Men's Fellowship	7.45 pm
	Planning Meeting for Morning Service	
SUN 19	Family Service – Roger's Retirement Service	10.30 am
	Admission to membership of Mrs Betty Briggs	
	Rev. Roger Wood	
	Bring and Share Lunch	approx 12 noon
	Short Afternoon Act of Worship	
	No Evening Service	
Sat 25	SPRING SUPPER	6.30 pm
SUN 26	Family Service – Parade	10.30 am
	Geoff Harrington	
	Evening Worship – Holy Communion	6.30 pm
	Rev Peter Elliott	

Tue 28	Tuesday Fellowship – Auctioneer Mr Inman <i>Bring an item along for valuation.</i>	2.30 pm
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MAY

SUN 3	Family Service – Holy Communion Stella Godard/ Keren Hancox	10.30 am
	Evening Worship – The Junction	6.30 pm

All contributions for the MAY edition of the magazine must be handed in no later than **SUNDAY 19th APRIL.**

Please inform **Mr Bill Maclean** by Wednesday of the preceding week of any calendar changes so that the calendar on the Order of Service may be altered.



Flower Rota for April

5 th	Easter Flowers
12 th	Easter Flowers
19 th	Adrian & Hilary Ball – in memory of their parents
26 th	Denzil & Rosemary Brice – Wedding Anniversary

ABIGAIL'S TESTIMONY

I grew up in a Christian family and through church, Girls' Brigade and attending Christian schools, God was always part of my life. But, for a long time, I struggled to understand what it was all actually about and whether I believed or not.

It's been a long journey but I met some amazing people and had some amazing experiences that allowed me to grow in my faith and understand my relationship with God.

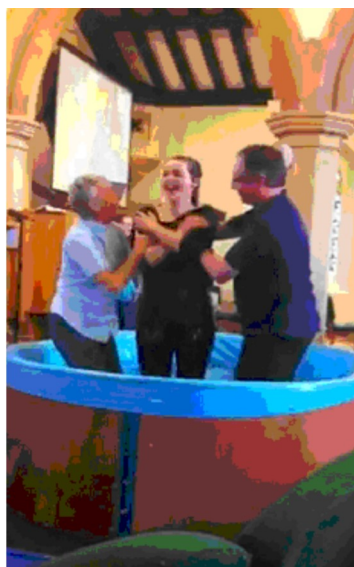
In my second year at university, I came to Highfield and I realised how much I wanted to be baptised. I am so excited to re-affirm my infant baptism and declare my faith because it is my decision and because I truly believe.



The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face to shine upon you
And be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you
And give you peace.

Aaronic Blessing

And BAPTISM



FROM THE SECRETARY

Dear Friends,

On Central's behalf, I would like to thank Roger and Kim for all their hard work at Central.

Their input has been huge and we will miss them. Please come and give them a really good day on 19th April to show our gratitude.

As Secretary, I would like to thank all who have made this last year so easy for me.

It has been wonderful to see all the Elders come together as one.

This unity was remarked upon by the LMMR team in their report and by our Interim Moderator, Jenny Morgan

With the retirement of Roger, a great deal of prayer has gone into the planning of the coming year and I hope you will find it all very exciting. We have spread the net wider for the Preaching plan and have gone forward in faith for the refurbishment.

Please pray for all involved that we may be successful in growing and developing God's Kingdom here in Hove.

Keren.

YOUR LETTERS

Dear friends at Hove Central URC,

Thank you so much for your prayers friendship and lovely flowers that have been sent to me from the time I have been in Brighton, especially since I fell and broke my hip three weeks ago and have been in hospital.

I am pleased to say that I am now back at Bramble Cottage and hope that in a few weeks time to be back in church with you all.

May I wish that the peace and hope of Easter bring special joy to you.

With love,

Muriel Lewis

Easter Greetings from the United Reformed Church!

The Revd John Proctor, general secretary of the United Reformed Church, offers the following Easter reflection:

Everyone loves an Easter egg. Doing things with eggs is part of the season - cream and chocolate, hard-boiled and decorated, hidden and hunted down. There is a reason we make so much of eggs at Easter. They are a visible and edible reminder of the stone on Jesus' grave. They speak of the first Easter and of what happened then.

The original stone was not quite egg-shaped. Think instead of a heavy disc, like a giant coin, able to roll from left to right, with a groove to guide its path. And Easter turns the stone, to a new position and a new angle. It turns a lot of other things too. Easter is about vindication, setting the world the right way up.

Easter vindicates Jesus. Who was this man? Healer? Prophet? Maverick? Criminal? Tragic hero? Dead loss? Easter says 'more' to some of these thoughts, and 'no' to others. Because of Easter, the cross was real but not final. At Easter, the healer overcame not only disease but death as well. The rising of the prophet Jesus speaks back to all that decays and destroys our world. Easter says that the values and beliefs for which Jesus stood and spoke are sure enough and strong enough to last. They do not die with him. He lives and so do they.

Easter vindicates justice. It says that cruelty and anger will not have the last word on earth. When corruption and cowardice have done their worst, their worst will be undone. The hardships and hurts we humans inflict on one another shall be judged and healed. The world can be a dirty, damaging and dismal place, but its smears, scars and shadows will not endure. Easter points to a future of hope and justice. The God who raised Jesus will not abandon this weary earth. We believe in justice, in a world turned right side up, because we believe in the risen Jesus.

And **Easter vindicates joy.** So much in this world tests our peace of mind, makes us hang our heads in sorrow, and sours our experience of living. Easter lifts our spirit. It raises our eyes in hope, and calms our hearts when fear waits at the door. Because Jesus lives we can trust, we can work confidently for justice, we can praise, and we have right and reason to rejoice.

A world turned right way up, rolled into a new alignment. Jesus lives. Justice is coming. Joy is ours. Happy Easter!

CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB

Do you remember a song, “It only takes a moment...?” In the book “Perfect” by Rachel Joyce, it only took two seconds. Two seconds in which the lives of the main characters of the book, James Lowe and Byron Hemmings, were changed for ever.

“In 1972 two seconds were added to time..... The seconds were added because it was a leap year and time was out of joint with the movement of the Earth.” And every one is out of joint with every one else, including themselves.

We had come to chose this novel, partly through recommendation and partly because we had already read Rachel Joyce’s previous novel, “The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry” last year. We have to admit that we did not enjoy this one as much as we did Harold Fry. The initial comments about our reactions were that it was an uncomfortable book – disturbing and unsettling but not difficult to read.

Perhaps this was because we found that all the adult characters were flawed or became flawed because of events as they were perceived in childhood. While some of the adults seemed to strive for perfection, this pursuit became increasingly impossible because of their past or events in their childhood. Similarly the flaws which make Seymour a bully and wife abuser go back to his childhood: while Diane, his wife, strives for the perfect house because of her misspent past.

The author also has the ability to lead our imaginations astray: just as we think we have “sussed” a particular character, there is a twist, which pulls us up abruptly, so we have to re-think all our assumptions. Several things are hinted at but never openly stated, so we reach a decision only to find that we have been very cynical in our judgements.

However, we must admit that there are passages of rare beauty in this book and the descriptions of the countryside are so precisely and delicately done that we could not bring ourselves to skip over them. One of the most beautiful and quirky passages is given over to a goose laying an egg. Memories of childhood rituals were also evoked, amid some laughter. We might come to the conclusion therefore that perfection is to be found only in nature, if we forget the axiom “Nature red in tooth and claw” as the crows gather outside.

Exhausted by all this, on 27th April we are undertaking a new venture – having a play reading of “Time and the Conways” at Chip Dunn’s home.

In the following months, on dates to be arranged, we are planning to read the Book of Daniel from the Old Testament, having been inspired by Peter Elliott's addresses on Daniel during the evening services. Peter has promised to be there to keep us straight and we expect to have some really interesting discussions from this.



THE JUNCTION will meet on 12th April



**BRIGHTON & HOVE FLOWER DECORATION
CLUB**

FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP
How to transform Supermarket Flowers

Saturday 16th May 1.00 pm - 4.30 pm

Venue: St Peters RC Church Hall, Portland Road

For further details please contact:

Anne Waite, Chairman

Tel: 01273 270928

e-mail dpwaite@btinternet.com

Cost £12 (excluding materials) Refreshments provided

INVITATION

From Hounsom Fellowship

To join with them on their outing.

TUESDAY 16TH JUNE 2015

We will pick up from the three churches, starting with Central at 9.30, Hounsom at 9.45 and Portslade at 10.00 a.m.

Our first stop will be at a large garden centre near East Grinstead, where coffee or tea and Danish pastry will be provided. There will be time to browse. From there we ride down through Ashdown Forest for lunch at Heaven Farm. The ride then continues to Eastbourne, going along the front to Beachy Head and on to Birling Gap where we hope to stop for a short while.

We then return to Hounsom for Afternoon Tea at 4.30 pm.

The cost for the outing, including Morning Coffee, Lunch and the cream Tea will be £20.00.

Lunch will be from a selection of roasts. Please choose from the menu, printed below, along with your choice of dessert and advise **Angela Bacon** of your selection. Money to Angela by the end of May, please.

Anyone who needs to be taken home after the Tea at Hounsom or needs a wheelchair please advise Angela, who can be contacted Tel: 01273 551926.

The Stables Restaurant & Tea Rooms Group Menu

Traditional Roasts (available any day pre-booked)

Beef, with Yorkshire pudding

Lamb, optional minted sauce

Pork, optional apple sauce

Nut Roast, homemade

Above roasts are served with roast potatoes and fresh vegetables of the day.

Apple Pie and Cream—other desserts available on request - lemon meringue, hot chocolate fudge cake

Tea or coffee with meals.

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This is key standard information, like telephone numbers - don't forget what you have to do if you're:

(a)reproducing (by typing) song words (eg in notices, separate song sheets or for the overhead projector) you need to include at the foot of each song the following details:

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...and **inform** Chris Hill for the records. If you don't have some of the information, try Chris he may be able to help !

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CENTRAL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HOVE

Corner of Ventnor Villas and Blatchington Road, Hove
Church Hall Telephone: 01273 734162
www.centralurchove.com

MINISTER

Rev. Roger Wood

(Day off: Thursday)

CHURCH SECRETARY

Mrs K. Hancox

TREASURER

Mr. C. Hill

COVENANT & FREEWILL OFFERING SECRETARY

Refer: Secretary/Treasurer

ORGANIST & CHOIR MASTER

Dr. A. Ireland

BUILDING HALL(S) HIRE

Mrs Celia Elliott

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Mrs. R. Brice

SUNDAY SERVICES

10.30 a.m.

MORNING WORSHIP

with Youth and Children's Ministry

6.30 p.m.

EVENING WORSHIP

HOLY COMMUNION

First Sunday of the month at 10.30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of the month at 6.30 p.m.