



Central
United Reformed Church
Hove



December 2012– January 2013

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Sunday Youth Ministry

3 years - 7 years

Mrs. K. Hancox

7 years - 11 years

Mrs. A. Austen

TOGS

Mrs C. Vaughan

11 - 14 years

Mrs F. Beacham

FURY

Rev.R & Mrs K Wood

(Year 10 –25 years)

Boys' Brigade

(Mondays)

Mr. C. Jukes

Girls' Brigade

(Tuesday)

Mrs. S. Hill

Tuesday Fellowship

(Alternate Tuesdays)

Mrs Celia Baines – Holmes

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

Dear Friends

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year, with the kids jingle-belling and everyone telling you be of good cheer, it’s the most wonderful time of the year” - as the **Christmas** song goes! And so it is, but perhaps for far better reasons than some of the sentimental ideas that are expressed about **Christmas** in our world. One of the reasons is the church season of Advent, which is the time when we anticipate **Christmas** far more meaningfully than the cards, presents and glitter in the shops in August!

The ecclesiastical season of Advent goes back to the 6th Century, and is the period of the four Sundays before **Christmas**. It’s a time when we suspend our knowledge that Jesus has come, and we look forward to the coming of the expected Christ. Just imagine how it must have been for the Jewish people who had received prophecies for hundreds of years that the Messiah would come. When he did appear, very few recognised him because he was different to their expectations.

Our **Christmas** season is mixed up with all kinds of sentimentality and nostalgia - sometimes for past **Christmases** that weren’t actually how we imagine them. We ‘dream of a white Christmas’ and have images of Victorian times with horse-drawn sleighs, carolling under candle lanterns, and beautiful little country churches in the snow.

But the reality of **Christmas** is far better than that: “...they will call him Immanuel - which means, ‘God with us’ ” (Matt. 1: 23) - Almighty God breaking through into human history, humbling Himself beyond all recognition, and coming as Jesus, born as a baby like each one of us - yet, ‘born to be King’. The incarnation is the most amazing event of all time - and yet, this was just the beginning. What an incredible risk God took with this world and the people He had created! But this is just part of why this is the most wonderful time of the year. As we cut through all the sentimentality, may we each be able to say that we love **Christmas** because we love Christ.

May the Lord bless us all as we experience anew the wonder of Advent and **Christmas**.

Roger



CENTRAL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

THE ROCK CHOIR
IN CONCERT
Singing Gospel, Pop & Motown

Saturday 8th December at 7.30 pm

Tickets £5 (including refreshments)

From Keren Hancox: Tel 881348

FAMILY NEWS FROM CENTRAL

Once again we have to begin by recording the death of another member, Helen Campbell, who died in hospital on 7th November 2012. Helen was a relative newcomer to Central and, due to her increasing ill health, was not able to be as regular in attendance as she would have liked. However, before she moved to Hove, she was a stalwart of her church in Paisley, Scotland where she was famous for her singing and her smile. She cherished a letter from the Moderator of the Church of Scotland expressing his thanks for her many years of service to the church. She was courageous in her approach to her advancing years, fiercely valuing her independence and high standards. We extend our sincere sympathy to her sons and all the family.

Two other friends, Jim Lyall and Clare Popley, have also suffered bereavements over the past month. We surround them with our love and prayers as well as our sympathy as they mourn their loved ones.

We are delighted to report that Charlie Steel's operation has been successful and he is now at home. He is in good spirits, although finding some aspects of his convalescence irksome. However, if he behaves himself, he should be fully recovered by Christmas. We give thanks to God for this happy result and for the medical staff of whom Charlie cannot speak highly enough.

Doreen Page has also been in hospital for tests and investigations and is now home awaiting the results. We pray that these will lead to a subsequent improvement in her health. Celia and Peter Elliott's daughter, Sally, is going into hospital at the end of November for more tests. It is hoped that these will lead to a definitive diagnosis. Please continue to hold Sally, her children and all the family in your prayers.

On a much lighter note. You may have noticed that Carl Jukes has been sporting a much shorter hair style over the past two weeks. This was all in a good cause. Carl agreed to have his head shaved for charity and in doing so raised £60 for Children in Need. Congratulations to Carl. It seems to be quite the "in" style amongst BB officers. Whether for its tonsorial effect or simplicity of cut, at least it beats a comb-over!

It is good to report that we have a happier Treasurer. Actually a "very happy" one to quote Chris Hill. Following the appeal to defray the costs of repairs to the boiler, £2726 of donations were received, which should cover the costs. So, the boiler is working once more, the building is warm

and we give thanks for God's provision through people's generosity.

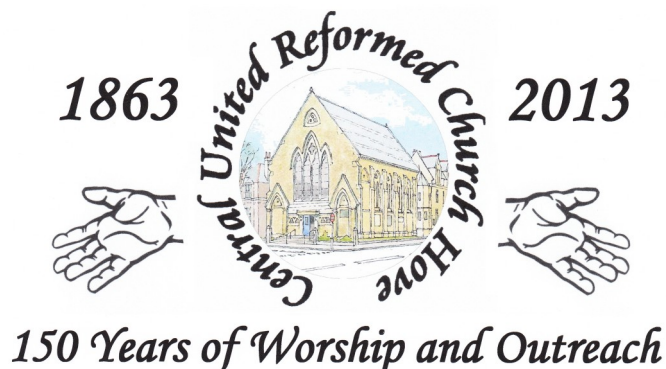
We have been worried about our good friend, Stella Goater, who "disappeared" for a few weeks from her home due to the hospitalisation of her carer. Thanks to some tenacious sleuthing by Pam Macaulay, we now know that, at the moment, Stella is in Ireland Lodge in Woodingdean. Both Stella and her devoted carer, Robert Owen, are in need of our prayerful support and hope that a happy solution of care may soon be found.

At this special time of year we continue to pray for and remember all our dear friends who are unable to join with us at church in celebrating Christ's birth. May they be comforted, warmed and strengthened by the knowledge that they are continually held in our Fellowship of Prayer.

Jenny Flint Clive & Shirley Hamlin John Gilson
John & Elsie Flack Hugh & Peggy McMillen Jane Ramirez
Tebello Sibanda

2013 will be a special year for our church as, with gratitude, we celebrate the 150 anniversary of Christian witness on this site. We look forward to a week of celebrations later in the year: a week in which we can praise and thank God for His continuing goodness to us and His love bestowed on us over the years; meet up with old friends and rejoice. So, we have a new logo for this special year and look forward to hearing the details of the plans which are being made.

In the meantime may we wish you a very Happy Christmas and every Blessing in the New Year.



1ST HOVE GIRLS' BRIGADE COMPANY

Oh yeh! Oh yeh! Oh yeh! Here we are again, it's panto time!

Well it's certainly full steam ahead as we begin our rehearsals for 1st Hove's bi-annual pantomime. Thanks to the summer preparations by our script writer, producer and typist (Chip, Pam and Carol) we are already 'treading the boards' and the characters of 'Dick Whittington' are coming to life! As you know this year's special fundraising project is Whizz Kidz and all the proceeds of our production will go to this worthwhile cause. Please come and join in the fun. You will find order forms within this magazine or at the back of the church. If you need any help please speak to Ann Austen or any member of staff. The dates for the Panto are the evenings of Friday 25th and Saturday 26th January 2013, with a matinee performance on Saturday. Do book early to avoid disappointment !

Last month six of our Brigaders and I, attended the South Downs District Young Leaders Training Weekend at Dalesdown. This was a really great weekend of fellowship. It is always good to spend time with staff from other companies and share ideas. I am also delighted we have such an enthusiastic group of 'Young Leaders' who help with the younger girls each week.

Earlier this month Julia Jones went to St James's Palace to be presented with her Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. We would like to congratulate her on such a wonderful achievement!

Finally, everyone from 1st Hove G.B. Company would like to wish you a very happy time this Christmas. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

Suzanne Hill

Captain

OUTREACH

Outreach Fund

Time has come round again to invite all those who have “Outreach Jars” to bring them along on Sunday 9th December for Alasdair to count the contents and to thank you for your generosity. Our Posters, which attract quite a lot of attention, cost £25 each and some of the money from the jars helps towards this form of publicity.

Carol Singing

Once again, we shall be Singing in George Street on Saturday 15th Dec. at 11.00 a.m. and we invite all those who like a good sing to join us in the Ventnor Hall at 10.45 a.m. to collect a carol sheet and maybe a cup of coffee before making our way to a suitable position in the shopping precinct. It's always most enjoyable and we are well received by all the shoppers. We do not collect any money.

The Outreach Team wish you all a very Blessed Christmas.

Adrian Ball

CHURCH WHEELCHAIRS

We have at church two wheelchairs that can be borrowed for short or long term use. Anyone, who would find one useful, for themselves or a friend. please ask Keren Hancox or Celia Elliott.

HELP!

Please come along and help to decorate the church halls on Wednesday 5th December between 10.00 a.m and 1.30 pm. Even if you can only spare an hour it will be very much appreciated.

CHURCH CALENDAR

DECEMBER



SUN 2	1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
	Family Service – Holy Communion	10.30 am
	Gifts around the Christmas Tree	
	Rev Roger Wood	
	Evening Worship – The Junction	6.30 pm
Mon 3	Ladies Prayer Group	8.00 pm
Tue 4	Tuesday Fellowship	2.30 pm
	Blind Veterans UK	
Wed 5	Decorate the halls for Christmas	10.00 am
Sat 8	The Rock Choir Concert	7.30 pm
SUN 9	2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
	Family Service	10.30 am
	Rev. Peter Elliott	
	Evening Worship	6.30 pm
	Rev. Alex Mabbs	
Wed 12	Bible Study & Prayer Group	11.00 am
Sat 15	Carol Singing in George Street (Meet in Church 10.45 am)	11.00 am
SUN 16	3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
	Family Service – SYM	10.30 am
	Rev. Alex Mabbs	
	Carols by Candlelight	6.30 pm
	(Light Refreshments afterwards)	
Mon 17	Bluebird Nativity	10.15 am
Tue 18	Bluebird Nativity	10.15 am
	Tuesday Fellowship	2.30 pm
	Fellowship Party	

SUN 23 **4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
Family Service
Rev Roger Wood
No Evening Service at Central

10.30 am



Mon 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE**
Holy Communion
Rev Roger Wood

11.30 pm

Tue 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**
Family Service
Rev. Roger Wood

10.30 am

SUN 30 Family Service
Mr Stuart Dew
Evening Worship – Holy Communion
Rev Roger Wood

10.30 am

6.30 pm



FLOWERS FOR DECEMBER

2nd Ruth Shepherd
9th Welcome Break – in memory of past friends
16th)
22nd) CHRISTMAS FLOWERS
30th)



JANUARY 2013

SUN 6	Family Service – Holy Communion Rev Alex Mabbs Evening Worship – The Junction	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Mon 7	Ladies' Prayer Group	8.00 pm
Wed 9	Elders' Meeting	7.30 pm
SUN 13	Family Service Rev Peter Elliott Evening Worship Rev Roger Wood Paul's Letter to Philemon (Part 1)	10.30 pm 6.30 pm
Tue 15	Tuesday Fellowship Members' New Year Resolutions	2.30 pm
Wed 16	Men's Fellowship – New Year Party with the ladies	7.30 pm
SUN 20	Family Service Rev Roger Wood Church Meeting Evening service at Sacred Heart (see special notice)	10.30 am 12 noon
Fri 25	GB Pantomime – Dick Whittington	7.00 pm
Sat 26	GB Pantomime – Dick Whittington GB Pantomime – Dick Whittington	3.00 pm 7.00 pm
SUN 27	Family Service – Parade Rev Roger Wood Evening Worship – Holy Communion Rev Alex Mabbs	10.30 am 6.30 pm

Mon 28	Christian Book Club – “Warhorse” (Sheena Ireland)	8.00 pm
Tue 29	Tuesday Fellowship – Trevor Povey Film Making on the South Coast	2.30 pm

FEBRUARY

Sun 3	Family Service – Holy Communion Rev. Roger Wood	10.30 am
	Evening Worship – The Junction	6.30 pm

- All contributions for the **FEBRUARY** edition of the magazine must be handed in no later than **SUNDAY 20TH JANUARY.**
- Please inform Mrs Sheena Ireland by Wednesday of the preceding week of any calendar changes so that the calendar on the Order of Service may be altered.



FLOWERS FOR JANUARY

6 th	Jan Owen – in memory of loved ones
13 th	Jim & Sheila Lyall – in memory of their parents
20 th	Sheila Purchase
27 th	June Whittle – in memory of Ray

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

18TH - 25TH JANUARY 2013

18th	Community Eucharist	St Andrews	10.30 am
19th	Divine Liturgy	Coptic Church	10.00 am
20th	Evening Service	Sacred Heart	t.b.c.
21st	Service	St John's	t.b.c.
22nd	Mid-day Prayer	Central URC	11.30 am
23rd	Eucharist	All Saints	10.30 am
24th	Eucharist	Hove Methodist	10.30 am
25th	Eucharist	St Barnabas	12 noon

CHURCH MEETING

This is the democratic process by which our church is run. If you do not attend, and take part in the voting on proposals that come before the Meeting, then you have no grounds for complaint about changes that may result from these.

There are a number of important issues which will be arising very shortly, e.g. time of Morning Service, the way the Sanctuary is laid out.

The next Church Meeting will be held on **Sunday, 20th January 2013** after the morning service.

Make it your New Year Resolution to be there!

Sheena Ireland

1st HOVE GIRLS' BRIGADE COMPANY

Present

Dick Whittington

Friday 25th January

at 7.00 pm

Saturday 26th January

At 3.00 pm & 7.00 pm

Tickets from Mrs A. Austen

Adults £6.00

Children (under 16) £4



Ventnor Hall
Central URC

PARACLETE CHRISTIAN NETWORK **INTERNATIONAL**

Christmas Appeal

Once again the Elders at Central have agreed to allow us to make an appeal on behalf of those we are endeavouring to help in Kwadzana in Zimbabwe.

Most of you will be familiar with our Bible Training School and the efforts made to equip it with furniture, computers and office equipment, which we shipped out last year and which arrived on Christmas Eve. The delight of opening the container waited until our good friend Lynda Hulcoop and some of her family arrived on New Years Day when there was great excitement.

We have had some problems with our bore hole in recent times as it is used by many more people than originally planned and a hole has been drilled in the garden where many of Jonah's (our resident Minister) family and teaching staff are living, but this still needs the pump and equipment to bring water to the surface.

At this time of the year there are many worthwhile charities all vying for our attention, but we can assure you that every penny that is given to Paraclete will go to Zimbabwe. It will bring some joy and the spirit of Christmas to those that may not have seen a decent meal since this time last year, when we were able, through your generosity, to send sufficient money to pay for some food parcels and a celebration meal for many in the neighbourhood.

We would love to repeat this event as it creates a wonderful feeling among the local residents that they are not alone in their struggles and that someone, somewhere, cares.

We would ask you to pray for these people and be as generous as you feel able, and, if you are a UK tax payer and have not previously completed a Gift Aid form, please use the one that will be attached to your envelope when it is given to you.

Yours in Christian love,

June Whittle & Adrian Ball

CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB

The “book” we hoped to discuss at our last meeting of 2012 was Paul’s Epistle to the Romans or as some people like to call it simply “Romans.” Only there is nothing simple about these 16 chapters.

In our naiveté, we had arrived clutching only our Bibles but without a concordance or at least one copy of a William Barclay commentary. And where do we find a minister when we need one? Well, not at this meeting of the Book Club! They had too much sense.

When one subsequently discovers that people can spend their lives arguing whether this is an “epistle” or a letter or as we thought a series of sermons, (Really to try to explain the amount of repetition of particular points – you know three main points and a summary make a good sermon.) you will appreciate how one must be careful in choosing one’s words about this particular entry in the New Testament.

We, like the early Christians, got rather bogged down in the Jews/Gentiles debate, which was splitting the church of that time. Indeed Paul was about to leave Corinth to go to Jerusalem to participate in the great discussion, which ultimately split the early church. Could a non-Jew be a Christian by faith or would he have to become a Jew first. This led on to trying to define who or what is a Jew. Is it someone who practises Judaism? Is it something racial? Is it someone who lives in Israel? And so on.

In subsequent research it was discovered that Martin Luther used “Romans” to help bring about the schism with the Roman Catholic Church which became The Reformation and Protestantism and further splits within this as men made their own interpretations of the verses.

Indeed if you go on the internet the amount of information, essays, books and page upon page of articles, theses, etc., from theologians, different denominations, and people with too much time on their hands nit-picking over a single word is overwhelming.

As the Church of England had met the previous week and voted not to have women Bishops, Paul’s attitude to women, which has caused so much uproar, also came up for discussion. We found it difficult to reconcile his greetings and thanks to a whole list of women in the church to his reputed misogyny. (Ch 16) One very unusual idea mooted was that Paul was suffering from unrequited love! St Paul and Keats in the same boat - not very likely!

However we have since been warned “ Any interpretation of Paul’s references to the subservience of women must wrestle with the theological, contextual, syntactical and lexical difficulties embedded within his words.” Says it all, really.

Might I suggest that Jesus said everything that Paul said, only much more directly and simply.

“Go ye out into ALL the world and preach the gospel”

“Love one another as I have loved you”

“I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.”

“He who believes in me shall have everlasting life”

And John 10 vv 10 - 18.

One final thought. The ideal evening on “Romans” : a panel made up of the Chief Rabbi, the Pope, Martin Luther (or failing that, Ian Paisley), William Barclay and Germaine Greer!

- Suggestions for further reading: “The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner.” James Hogg
- Next meeting 28th January at 30 Albany Villas.
The book, “Warhorse”

YOUR LETTERS

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank the congregation for their kind thoughts, prayers, flowers, cards and phone calls before and after my operation.

I am well on the mend and look forward to being with you soon.

God bless,

Charlie



PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS

Bible Study on Romans

Paul wrote: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes; for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith'" (Rom. 1:16-17).

Without faith we can neither be saved nor live according to God's will. Therefore, Christians live by faith. With this in mind, this article is devoted to a brief overview of faith relating to a Christian's life in Christ.

The beginning and end of the epistle teach us that we must be obedient to the faith (Rom. 1:5; 16:26). Thus, Paul's epistle to the Romans is an epistle of faith. Faith comes from hearing the word of God (Rom. 10:17); and God's children are those who are obedient to the faith (Rom. 1:5; 16:26).

Righteousness is through faith in Jesus Christ (Rom. 3:22) because redemption is in Christ (Rom. 3:24). God is the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus (Rom. 3:26) since He sent Jesus to be a propitiation by His blood (Rom. 3:25).

Christians have been justified by faith and have peace with God (Rom. 5:1). They glory in tribulation, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance and hope (Rom. 5:3-5).

Christians have been baptized into Christ (Rom. 6:3) and thus receive the gift of God - eternal life (Rom. 6:23). Those who are not in Christ receive the wages of sin - death (Rom. 6:23).

Christians submit themselves as slaves to God (Rom. 6:15). They are slaves of righteousness for holiness (Rom. 6:19). They have been set free from sin; and they have become slaves to God bearing fruit of holiness (Rom. 6:22).

Christians do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit (Rom. 8:1). The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made them free from the law of sin and death (Rom. 8:2). They are children of God (Rom. 8:15-17).

Christians know that all things work together for good to those who love God (Rom. 8:28). And, they know that nothing can separate them from the love of Christ (Rom. 8:32f). Christians are more than conquerors through Christ (Rom. 8:38).

Christians believe and confess that God raised Jesus from the dead (Rom. 10:8-10). They call on the name of the Lord and are saved (Rom. 10:13).

Christians present their bodies as living sacrifices, holy, acceptable to God. It is their reasonable service. They are not conformed to this world, but they are transformed by the renewing of their minds. They prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God (Rom. 12:1-2).

Christians live by faith; thus, they are obedient to the faith (Rom. 16:26).

Are you living by faith?

Biblestudyguide.org

- *Since the Book Club had some difficulty in getting to grips with Romans, this simplest Bible study via the internet might offer some clarification!*



A wise man once said, "I don't know. Ask a woman."

CENTRAL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HOVE

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

MINISTER

Rev. Alex Mabbs

(Day off: Friday)

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Rev. Roger Wood

(Day off: Thursday)

SECRETARY

Mrs. S. Ireland

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.

Third Sunday of the month at 6.30 p.m.