



Central United Reformed Church Hove



February 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

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

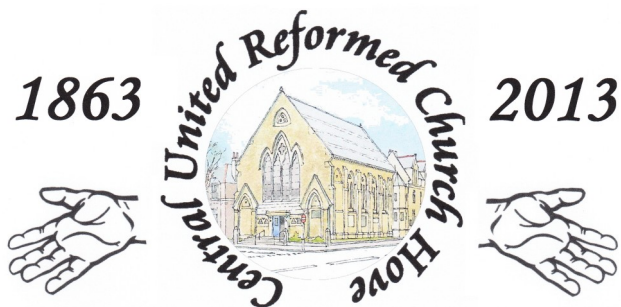
Mrs K. Hancox

Church Web Site

Mr John Brewster

Church Hall Tel: 01273 734162

Email: info@centralurchove.com



150 Years of Worship and Outreach

*“The glory of the present
house will be greater than
the glory of the former
house,” says the Lord
Almighty.*

*“and in this place I will
grant peace.”*

Haggai 2. 9

Dear Friends

Why would anyone go to church? A lot of people choose not to. Some would like to go but can't. Others ... well, how do you answer the question?

When Christians meet together for worship, something special can happen. It can feel as if God has shown up. Something of this is expressed by St Paul in 1 Corinthians 14. He says that when spiritual gifts are exercised well in worship, a visitor will say, "God is really among you!"

In a healthy, growing church, the worship is shot through with a tangible sense of God's living presence. For this to happen, we all need to play our part. The hymns, prayers and sermon are vital, of course. But those leading worship cannot do more than lead. It's up to you to follow, to bring your worship and contribute it to the combined offering of us all. It's in that collective offering, as we share together in giving God our thanks, bringing to him our requests and paying attention to his word, that the Holy Spirit seems to transform our worship with his vitality.

So I want to encourage you to play your part in worship. A basic attitude we all need is that of King David in 2 Samuel 24.24: "I will not sacrifice to God offerings that cost me nothing." In other words, healthy, Spirit-filled worship can't happen when the people turn up as theatre critics, sitting back to be entertained. (It also can't happen if the people don't turn up!)

So – come as a creative participant, ready to give to God and to your fellow-worshippers.

Come, having first prepared yourself in prayer at home, ready to hear from God and respond to his word.

Come ready to make the hymns and prayers your own, even if you don't like them. Bless your fellow-worshippers by joining in and adding your thanksgiving and prayers to theirs. You can sing your favourite hymns at home whenever you like. The Sunday service is a time for us to serve rather than be served, to combine together in worship to bless God and seek the blessing of all.

Why would God go to church? I think he goes anyway, because God is very gracious and loving, but let's not take his grace and love for granted. Let's give God reasons to show up on Sundays, by bringing

hearts and minds ready to hear and ready to serve, ready to be filled with the Holy Spirit, so that anyone coming into our services, whether for the first time or the thousandth time, will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, “God is really among you!”

Alex Mabbs.

Dear Friends

This year is a challenging time for the Church - in our own church, and in the country. In the ‘established church’, as we know, a new Archbishop of Canterbury is being inducted. With all the controversy there is in society with issues of equality and political correctness, it is not a position to be envied. In the division of Church and state, should the Church bow to the state, or should the Church speak out prophetically? In our own denomination there is a very clear distinction between the position of Church and government. To quote from the ‘Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church’: “We believe that Christ gives his Church a government distinct from the government of the state. In the things that affect obedience to God, the Church is not subordinate to the state, but must serve the Lord Jesus Christ, its only Ruler and Head”.

The present Archbishop of Canterbury gave a good New Year Message, and said that “the entire Universe is held together by the quiet, unfailing generosity of God” - which is perhaps a rather veiled way of saying that God loves the world.

By contrast, the Queen in her Christmas message was very direct. She said: “This is the time of year when we remember that God sent His only Son to serve, not to be served. He restored love and service to the centre of our lives in the person of Jesus Christ.” She concluded by talking about the carol ‘In the bleak midwinter’ and the question it poses in the last verse: “What can I give Him?” She went on to say that the carol gives the answer, “Yet what I can I give Him, give my heart.” You can’t get much more direct about the Christian message than that!

As we are challenged by this example of straight talking, we should be bolder about expressing our faith. We should not be scared to ‘tell it the way it is’!

May the Lord bless us as we witness for Him,

Roger

FAMILY NEWS FROM CENTRAL

You may have read in the last issue of the magazine that we had been concerned about the whereabouts of our friend **Stella Goater** and had finally traced her to a nursing home in Woodingdean. Unfortunately, Stella's stay there was all too short and she died on 14th December.

Stella had been a faithful member of Central for many years, regularly attending morning worship, when not away on one of her beloved cruises, and, when she became increasingly frail, she still struggled to come to church, employing the services of taxi drivers and then her carer, Roger. The last time she "made it" was on her last birthday, 2011 and what an effort that was for her! But the fact that she was in her church once more was obviously a present in itself as she was greeted by friends and showered with good wishes. Please continue to hold Roger, her carer, in prayer as he undergoes treatment for cancer.

We extend our sincere sympathy to **Jenny Flint** on the death of her father. As you know Jenny has been through a very difficult and distressing year and we pray that her faith and the prayers of her many friends will uphold her and bring her comfort. We pray that this new year will be a happier and healthier one for her.

The New Year began in a very positive fashion for the congregation when we were delighted to welcome **Molly Fraser** into membership on Sunday 6th January at the morning service. Molly comes to us from Moncrieff Parish Church in East Kilbride. If you have not made her acquaintance yet, she tends to sit on the North side of the church. We hope she feels very welcome and pray that she may find friends and fellowship with us.

While we welcomed one new friend in January, we also had to bid farewell to **Carlo**, who first came to Welcome Break and then became a regular worshipper with us on Sunday mornings. Carlo has returned to his family in Brazil and we wish him better health and happiness with the warmer climate. He was very touched to receive a Bible from Roger as a keepsake and, hopefully, a comfort, from Central when he came to the service last Sunday, 27th January to say his goodbye.

Another positive piece of news is that Celia and Peter's daughter, **Sally**, has finally had a diagnosis and a name, Mesenteritis, given to the illness, which has been debilitating her for such a long time. And the even better news is that it is treatable. The reason that it has taken so long to identify is that it is a quite rare auto-immune deficiency, which only 300 people in

the world are known to have – and Sally is one of them. So, please continue to pray for Sally and her family on both sides of the Channel, the doctors treating her and for the success of the treatment, so Sally can regain her former energy.

Dale Marland has been in and out of hospital and is not feeling “fantastic” at the moment. He, too, is in need of our prayers.

Congratulations to everyone in the Girls’ Brigade for presenting another highly successful pantomime which gave so much pleasure to everyone fortunate enough to attend one of the three performances. Our thanks, especially to Pam and Chip who wrote and produced it, and to the workers behind the scenes, who enabled everything to go so smoothly on the night (s). We are so blessed to have so many people who are prepared to voluntarily give of their time and talents.

Central is on the move this year – at least some of its members are! We wish every blessing to those who have already moved; those who are about to and those still house hunting.

2013 is going to be year of challenge and celebrations as we give thanks for 150 years of Christian witness and worship on this site and seek to know God’s Will for our future. One step, in faith, has already been taken with the installation of a new audio-visual system in the sanctuary and loudspeakers in the New Hall (which have caused some amusement and consternation already with Bluebird!) Pray constantly for the church and its peoples, for God’s guidance and blessing on the plans for this year and come along to Church Meetings to help contribute to plans and discussions of the way forward. (Next one Sunday 17th February) May everything we do be for His Glory and the advancement of Christ’s Kingdom in Hove and on Earth.

Fellowship of Prayer.

Clive & Shirley Hamlin

John Gilson

John & Elsie Flack

Hugh & Peggy McMillen

Jane Ramirez

Tebello Sibanda



10TH BRIGHTON (HOVE) BOYS' **BRIGADE COMPANY**

The BB National launched a campaign for all Companies to grow by 10% in 2012.

I am pleased to report that, following our successful Recruitment Day, we were one of the 120 Companies to report at least 10% increase in numbers.

Carl Jukes

ELECTION OF ELDERS AND THE A.G.M.

At the A.G.M. in March, four of our Elders will stand down from active service and are not seeking re-election at this time. Under current rules, up to six people may be elected by the congregation to serve them, as at present we have ten Serving Elders out of a possible twelve.

Please give these elections your earnest and prayerful consideration. Think about people to whom you would like to entrust the spiritual leadership of Central. Ask them if they would accept nomination. Ask yourself if God is now calling you to serve His people in this way, whether for the first time, or again.

Remember – an Elder is ordained for life, not just for four years.

Sheena Ireland
Church Secretary



The Social Activities Committee

Invite you to

A COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 9th February at 10.00 a.m.

(in aid of funds for the Spring Supper)

Cake Stall

"COMMUNION OFFERINGS"

At the Church meeting in November a proposal to cease monthly Communion offerings and make alternative charitable donations was agreed by the membership. The basis of this was as follows:

- Communion offerings have been very low for many years (usually much less than £10 per month)
- Central has therefore been topping up the donations we make to good causes from reserves - currently we pay £50 every two months to six good causes each year.

The proposal was made that we cease regular Communion offerings in church as the amount given is small and that, instead, Central will make an annual donation of £150 each to **two** good causes, which will represent a more useful amount of money.

The above proposal was agreed and will take effect from January 2013. The two good causes will be determined in due course. If members still get the urge to make an additional contribution to these charitable causes they are advised not fight it but place their contribution in the collection bags.

Thank you,

Chris Hill
Treasurer

Louise Mabbs - Fifties Style Food & Fun Party

You are all invited to my **50th Birthday celebration** on **23rd February 4pm – 9pm** at Portslade United Reformed Church

Afternoon cakes, hotdog supper (& alternatives), 50's trivia quiz, plus local band **Anna Sin & the Juke Box Bandits** and more...

Please come in 50's style outfits if you can & if you have any 50's fabric, memorabilia or tiered cake stands you can lend me, please let me know ASAP

There will be a sign up list in each church shortly so we know how many to cater for.

(No presents please - I have everything I need already, but a few coppers towards my Guatemalan textile tour/volunteer teaching trip, probably in 2014, would be appreciated)

OUTREACH

Firstly, very grateful thanks to all those who contributed to the Christmas appeal on behalf of Paraclete Christian Network, you raised the magnificent sum with the help of “Gift Aid” of £700. Lynda Hulcoop was in Zimbabwe over the New Year and there is a report from her elsewhere. While we are on things financial, thank you also for those of you who contribute to Outreach Funds by means of the “Jar” system £155.03 was raised throughout the year. This helps toward our publicity and posters.

We enjoyed our usual Carol Singing in George St. and so did those who were going about their business shopping. Many stopped to listen, especially the children.

Some of us are planning to attend “Big Church Day Out” which is held at Wiston House West Sussex on May 25th & 26th. On the Sunday there are some well known artists appearing – Matt Redman, Amy Grant, on stage, and Dave Bilbrough in the Tear Fund Tea Tent. The event starts at 1200 .noon and goes on until 10.30 pm so you get a lot for your money. This year, prices **before 28th February** are £26 for adults and £20 for under 16’s. Groups of 10 are a little cheaper. Anyone wishing to attend please see Adrian or Roger.

It has been suggested we have another Church “Away Day” and we will be looking into this at our next meeting.

We look forward to a return visit of the Lantern Theatre Company on **Sunday 24th March** in place of the evening service. Please keep this date free and do your best to attend.

Adrian Ball

* * * * *

- *When the song of the angels is stilled; when the star in the sky is gone; when the kings and the princes are home; when the shepherds are back with their flocks; the work of Christmas begins.*

To find the lost; to heal the broken; to feed the hungry; to release the prisoner; to rebuild the nations; to bring peace among the people; to make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman



1st HOVE GIRLS' BRIGADE **COMPANY**

presents

DICK WHITTINGTON

2012 was an extra special year for London with the Jubilee Celebrations and its hosting of the Olympics and Paralympics. So, it was easy to see why Dick Whittington had to change his plans and return there albeit by the circuitous route of Central's Ventnor Hall in Hove. (Well, the station is nearby!)

It was evident that the scriptwriters had been influenced by the above events, as the pantomime blended traditional with modern and made several references to them and to past pantomimes. After all why shouldn't Her Majesty call in, if she can parachute into the Olympics! The Ventnor Hall is much warmer and drier than her barge trip and the pantomime almost as colourful. The traditions of the pantomime were fully observed with a thigh-slapping principal boy, Hazel Childs, who looked and filled the part of Dick delightfully; his sweetheart, Alice, (Abigail Sarjudeen) charmed the hearts of everyone and their romance was a fine contrast to the more half hearted/Basics brand one of Idle Jack and Jill. Well played by Emma Newman and Becky Forrest.

The villain in any play, be it Shakespearean or by Moody-Dunn, is always a more interesting character to read or act, especially as, in this case, it can be melodramatic. Abigail Smith as Alderman Fitzwarren rose to the occasion, ably aided and abetted by Hope Sacree as Ma Whittington. The pair, urged on by a highly vocal and supportive audience, became more and more outrageous and OTT as the evening went on. Absolutely Fab-u-lous!

It really is unfair to pick out particular people by name as every single girl on stage played her part(s) unstintingly. The Explorers so obviously had a great time and touched the audience heart strings; the Juniors and Seniors shocked and delighted the audience. Did you know that St. Trinians has opened a branch in Central! We loved the Centralettes' pom-poms a-twirling,* while the Seniors' Zumba dancing and poi-poi waving was so exhausting – to watch. Brilliant.

**Are you a twirlie?*

A pensioner who tries to get on a bus and use a bus pass before 9.00 a.m.

If you groaned after reading this, then it gives you a taste of the groan-inducing jokes scattered throughout the pantomime. *The definition of a square meal? A slice of toast for breakfast!* The ultimate was the potato joke – so bad/good I can still remember it. If you don't know it, you should have been at the panto.

It is obvious that the Girls' Brigade was laying down a challenge to the Boys' Brigade – those masters of bad jokes and puns in their Old Time Music Hall. It's their turn next January 2014 to beat the awfulness. So, get cracking, Boys!

Many, many thanks for a highly enjoyable and pleasurable evening to the girls, to the GB Staff, who work quietly in the background for weeks beforehand, to the stage management team, to all the ex- GB members who either came back to help with the production or just to enjoy the show from the audience, but especially to Suzanne, who ran the Company as well as making the costumes, Chip and Pam, who wrote and re-wrote the script and the songs and produced the show, and the Brigaders who persuaded them to do so.

THE FINALE





DICK WHITTINGTON
GB PANTOMIME
2013

JOB

From paintings to films to novels, the book of Job seems to have inspired more artists than any other part of the Old Testament. Perhaps that's because its central theme of undeserved suffering is one that touches all of us. The poetry can be hard going, but then, what do you expect under the circumstances? Don't be put off! Come to the evening services during Lent, when we will be considering the story of Job and seeing if it will inspire us in living out our faith in God. The service on 17th February will be an introduction to the book.

Alex Mabbs.

EVENING SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

- 3rd The Junction
10th Philemon, part 2. Led by Roger.
17th Job, part 1. Led by Alex.
24th Communion services: at Hounsom led by Alex; at Central led by Roger.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

- | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 3 rd Feb | Jeremiah 1.4-10 | Psalm 71.1-6 | Luke 4.21-30 |
| 10 th Feb | Isaiah 6.1-8 (9-13) | Psalm 138 | Luke 5.1-11 |
| 17 th Feb | Deuteronomy 26.1-11 | Psalm 91.1-2, 9-16 | Luke 4.1-13 |
| 24 th Feb | Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18 | Psalm 27 | Luke 13-31-35 |

CHURCH CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2013

SUN 3	Family Service – Holy Communion Rev Roger Wood The Junction	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Mon 4	Ladies Prayer Group	8.00 pm
Sat 9	Coffee Morning – Social Activities Committee (In aid of funds for Spring Supper)	10.00 am
SUN 10	Family Service - Parade Led by the Girls' Brigade Evening Worship – Philemon (Part 2) Rev. Roger Wood	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Tue 12	Tuesday Fellowship Bring & Buy	2.30 pm
Wed 13	Joint Elders' Meeting at Central	7.30 pm
SUN 17	Family Service Rev Alex Mabbs Church Meeting Evening Worship – Job (Part 1) Rev. Alex Mabbs	10.30 am 12 noon
Wed 20	Men's Fellowship Programme Planning Meeting	7.45 pm
SUN 24	Family Service Led by the Elders Evening Worship – Holy Communion Rev Roger Wood	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Mon 25	Christian Book Club – Pilgrim's Progress (Pam Moody)	8.00 pm
Tue 26	Tuesday Fellowship Chauffeur to the Mayor	2.30 pm

MARCH

Fri 1	Women's World Day of Prayer St Peter's (West Blatchington) (beside the windmill)	10.30 am
Sat 2	Girls' Brigade Brunch	10.30 am
SUN 3	Family Service – Holy Communion Rev Alex Mabbs The Junction	10.30 am 6.30 pm

- All contributions for the **MARCH** edition of the magazine must be handed in no later than **SUNDAY 17TH FEBRUARY.**
- 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 FEBRUARY

- 3rd Mrs R Ayling – in memory of Maurice
- 10th Mr N & Mrs J Ramirez – in memory of their parents
- 17th Miss K. Dalley – in memory of Evelyn
- 24th The Girls' Brigade.



WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
(interdenominational)



**I WAS A STRANGER AND
YOU WELCOMED ME**

1st March 2013

Prepared by Christian women of France

10.30 a.m.

St Peter's

(West Blatchington)

Next to the Windmill

Bus No. 5 B will get you to St Peter's stop

150TH ANNIVERSARY

(aka Sesquicentenary)

What do the London Underground, the Football Association, and the congregation of Central URC, Hove have in common? The answer is that they all began in 1863 and are thus celebrating their 150th Anniversary this year. This summer, it will be 150 years since a group first met on this site to worship together, and so 2013 is 150th Anniversary, not of our building, but of the fellowship itself.

To begin our celebrations, we revived an old tradition – that of giving to each member of the congregation a motto card with a text for the year. Alex Mabbs provided the text and Tony Clark made it into the bookmark which I distributed at the beginning of January. (If you did not receive your bookmark, please let me know.)

Most of our plans for celebration focus on a week in June, beginning with a Service of Celebration on the afternoon of Saturday, 22nd, at which the Moderator of the URC will be preaching, continuing with a Flower Festival & Community Exhibition, a concert, and finishing with a Praise Service on 30th, at which the Moderator of the Southern Province will be preaching, followed by a church lunch.

I hope that you will join in as many activities as possible and really enjoy being a part of these celebrations as God's people, called to serve Him in this place, in the centre of Hove, and looking forward in faith, hope and love.

Sheena Ireland Church Secretary

Open our eyes that we may see
The ones from whom we turn away

Open our lives that we may know
The ones we fear to welcome.

Open our minds that we may hear
The ones whose words are strange.

Open our doors to those who knock,
To those whose lives ask questions of us.

For You stand at the door and knock
Challenging us to know Your face and hear Your voice.



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE

If there are two things on which Elders agree, they are the following:

1. *That the most important part of Alex Mabbs' work is ministry; that is leading worship, preaching, teaching and pastoral care.*
2. That too much of Alex's time is spent on unavoidable clerical/admin work, a part of his workload that has increased with the growth in the use of IT as a means of communication.

We feel sure that all Central's Fellowship would agree with these and of the desirability of reducing the time spent on clerical/admin work allowing Alex to spend more time on pastoral care. But how can this best be achieved? Although the clerical/admin work is unavoidable that does not mean it has to be done by Alex and what we are hoping for is that a volunteer will come forward to act as Alex's PA. What would be involved in terms of the work to be done and the time involved? Well, we do not intend to produce a job description. Rather, it will be tailored to however the volunteer thinks they can best help having talked over the type and range of support that might be given and the amount of time he or she is willing to put in.

We feel sure this will be a win, win, win solution. Central will gain more pastoral care. Alex will have more time to do the work he loves best and the work he was called to do. The volunteer will have the satisfaction of carrying out an interesting and important role.

If you have the slightest interest in the possibility of taking on this responsibility please have a word with Sheena Ireland, Church Secretary.



Paraclete Christian Network International

Prayer Update Sheet January 2013

This year has been another busy and eventful year as we have seen the work of PCNI develop in both Zimbabwe and Spain.

Operation Zimbabwe

This time last year, we were celebrating the safe arrival of the 20ft container sent from the UK. Since then, 2012 has been another positive year for the work in Zimbabwe despite little signs of improvement in the country as a whole. With wonderful support from different churches, a rotary Club and individuals over the year, we have been able to achieve the following:

Lynda and her brother Stephen will be ministering at the training centre in Kuwadzana between 3rd and 18th Jan 2013. Stephen is a member at Potters Street Baptist Church in Harlow, Essex, who are in the midst of a year of wonderful fund raising for Zimbabwe as they celebrate their 350th anniversary as a Baptist Church! We are so grateful for their efforts and all the ongoing commitment of faithful churches and individual supporters over the years which enable progress to be made. During the visit, they will be able to assess the other income generating project and see where God wants to lead us in the year ahead. They will be involved in practical work, teaching in the Bible School, preparing for the graduation ceremony and ,ministering in the church etc.

They would greatly value prayer for health and safety and God's presence and blessing upon them during their stay. May God bless this work and help us to be a prophetic voice in a dark place...

The English Church, Benidorm, Spain

2012 saw some key changes at the English Church, Benidorm. After 7 plus years of faithful and fruitful ministry in Spain, Eddie and Muriel McMillan retired from the full time ministry there. We held a wonderful weekend of farewell celebrations which was attended by PCNI Trustees and officials plus some family members. We are so grateful to the McMillan's for all they have achieved on our behalf over these years and for the many lives they touched over this long period.

Their retirement left us with many challenges to fill the huge gap they would leave in the ministry there. In June 2012, PCNI Trustees

interviewed Alan and Marion Robertson, a retired Assemblies of God minister and his wife from Preston, who June and Lynda had met in Benidorm previously. As a result of the interviews, we have appointed them to the ministry in Benidorm initially for a 6 month period to see how the Lord will lead and guide during this period. They started this phase in December 2012 and will continue to June 2013 with a view to continuing more permanently if this is how God leads.

Please pray for Alan and Marion, for good health for both of them and much anointing and for God's clear leading. We also hope to develop further evangelistic initiatives later in 2013 with the help of other people from UK to support the work of the church and closer international links with both the Scandinavian Congregation and the Spanish Evangelical Church.

The Discipleship Prayer Centre in Nagaland, India

The work at the Discipleship prayer centre in Dimapur, North East India, has seen the work of God in bringing healing and salvation in a wide range of people's lives from different backgrounds and cultures. If you are interested to read some of these amazing stories, they are available on the PCNI website. This powerful ministry continues in very humble surroundings amongst some of the poorest people on the earth. In later 2013, it is hoped there will be a ministry trip to the centre plus we hope to be able to contribute towards the expansion of the premises so that more people can come and stay and receive healing and wholeness in Christ. If you are particularly interested in this venture, please contact us for more details.

On behalf of all the Trustees and Officials of PCNI, may I take this opportunity of thanking all our supporters for their on-going prayer support and for the tremendous financial support we receive which makes such a difference to lives in other parts of the world. We trust you feel your contributions do have an impact which is both tangible and such a blessing to the many people we meet when we visit the various projects.

2013 promises to be another challenging year when we trust God for his on-going provision to meet our commitments and to lead us and guide us to new things he might want us to accomplish. We pray you will have a blessed new year with God's richest blessing upon your lives.

Lynda Hulcoop

FAIR TRADE MATTERS

Thank you very much to everyone who ordered from the Fairtrade Christmas Catalogues for or who came to the **Fairtrade Fair** in November.

We sold almost £1040 of stock sales and orders during the week-long sale. £35 of which were angel related items from **Books Alive** on Elm Drive & £50 were items from **Trashy Bags** which I brought back from my second Ghanaian trip (see previous magazine articles).

We had lots of new visitors having put about 300 Tearcraft/Created catalogues through local doors and just flyers through some other doors. It was also much busier during the Christmas Fair and we had a lovely Angels Choir of local children who attend our occasional pianist's, Eileen Aviss, class

A big thank you to everyone from all the churches too who came to keep me company. Stewarding is a very easy job at this event – an hour to be an extra church 'body', a chance to browse the items at leisure and maybe make a few cups of tea or coffee for visitors. Thanks especially to Val Baker who was with me almost all the time. Everyone else should receive their angel token of thanks soon.

It's a very gentle atmosphere, seasonal music in the background beautiful things to look at and an art table for children (or adults) to make something for the competition theme. This year you'll probably have noticed our theme was **Angels**. We had 26 entries all beautiful and varied. Q: Why do people draw female angels all the time when the ones in the bible are male? I hope you have all seen the **Angel Christmas Cards** we had produced from the winning entries. Thank you for every purchase already made of them, but please buy more ready for next Christmas!

Our **Angels From Every Angle** theme also continued through a large collection of Angel cards -mostly saved by me over 20 odd Christmases, books and decorations - mostly Izzy's, collected over almost 13 years, but added to by friends and church members. People were very interested in the displays and it certainly adds to the pull to come in. Next year we are planning to do **Three Wise Men** more complicated for drawing but opens up lots of opportunities to discuss what *true wisdom* is and why all the Carols talk about Kings instead. I'm also threatening to put on a light hearted **Any Questions** with our three wise men (Roger, Peter & Alex)

so start thinking up good questions! If you have any images or decorations on the theme please put them in an accessible place ready for next November!

Louise Mabbs

REPORT ON ZIMBABWE MINISTRY TRIP

3-17TH JANUARY 2013

Lynda Hulcoop accompanied by her brother, Stephen, from Harlow visited Zimbabwe between 3rd and 17th January. Sadly, on most fronts, the general state of the country shows few signs of improvement. The situation regarding water seems particularly to have deteriorated. Reports in the newspapers indicate that the chemicals necessary for treating the water are in short supply and thus the municipal water is often cut off. This means the borehole at the training centre and the recent provision of the one at Ashdown Park provide a vital source of clean water for the many people coming in from the community as well as for our own needs. Queues for water at the training centre seemed to be longer than ever but we are grateful we have this provision and can serve the community in this way.

The electricity supply continues to be extremely intermittent with the power off for long periods almost every day. The roads are still deteriorating with dangerous potholes everywhere contributing to high accident rates on the road. Also, during our stay, there was torrential rain on most days making the roads even more treacherous.

Common sights by the roadside are the significant piles of uncollected rubbish in some areas, the many small stalls selling vegetables, phone cards, doing shoe repairs etc – all run by local people seeking to eke out a living. The shops in town are full of goods and new shops have opened up since last year including a huge shopping and office complex built by the Chinese, a sign of the ever increasing Chinese investment in Zimbabwe. Prices of goods in these shops are very high particularly since most goods are imported; this makes shopping beyond the reach of the majority of the poorer Zimbabweans we work with. Socially and politically, the country seems relatively stable but not really progressing. However elections loom this year which could destabilise this relative calm...

On the positive side, everywhere we went we saw churches meeting in buildings, under canvas, under tin roofs with people holding on to their faith amidst all the hardship and many fervent prayer meetings in progress during the week. One national newspaper even includes a call to prayer in its pages keeping alive the hope that one day a new era will dawn for the country of Zimbabwe.

Thankfully all the Masaka family and all our training centre staff are in pretty good health and persevering faithfully in the work of the Gospel in the church and at the Training Centre. On the first Saturday of our visit, we had a lovely Masaka family gathering with all members present as we shared in their gratitude for the provision of the borehole at Ashdown Park – rejoicing for the supply of clean drinking water, something we easily take for granted. We and they are especially grateful to Hove Rotary Club for helping to make this project possible with their generous donation.

There was also great rejoicing about the Christmas celebrations that had been held thanks to generous donations from the UK including donations from folk at Hove Central. A Christmas meal was held attended by over 300 people with chicken, beef, rice, sadza and vegetables which was a wonderful occasion. In addition 65 food parcels were distributed in the neighbourhood to the neediest families consisting of mealie maize, salt, sugar, mazoe orange juice, biscuits, rice, beans, matemba (dried fish) and a chicken. Enough money remains to continue with food parcels for the next 2 or 3 months so thanks for all who contributed – you have made a difference to these people's lives.

Lynda spent time doing the following activities; leading daily staff prayers, meetings with Jonah and all staff members, running a one week Preaching course attended by 25 people, marking Bible school exam papers, officiating at Bible School Graduation, sharing in a school assembly, preaching on the 2 Sundays, sharing in 2 women's association meetings, preparing budgets for 2103 and working on potential new projects. Stephen spent much time doing practical jobs doing battle with Zimbabwean electrics – repairing many sockets and plugs, helping with gardening and even clearing ditches, fixing door handles and lawnmowers, building a pathway, puttying windows and putting up shelves in the strong room. He also helped lead staff prayers and did 3 children's talks on the subject of the London Olympics where he had volunteered, 2 in the church and one in the school.

As we enter 2013, things look promising despite the continuing demise of the country. Our secondary school enters its second full year with more students than ever. To date 150 are enrolled and more are expected. We still need to raise funds for school text books for all the O level subjects the students are taking as they are in short supply (See Course Book Challenge leaflet) . Also we hope to be able to register as an O level exam centre this year . This will benefit our students and provide some income for the centre. The Bible School is also developing. In 2012, 7 students graduated with a Diploma and 2 got certificates for undertaking the teaching course but numbers this year are also expected to be higher.

We also hope the wedding project will grow. In April, one of our staff members, is having a Christian marriage to her husband James (by African marriage) and so all the Wedded Bliss Project goods will be fully utilised.

We at PCNI are so grateful for the on-going support of you all at Hove Central. Rest assured your donations make a difference to the lives of our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe and they ask me to express their heartfelt gratitude for remembering their ongoing plight amidst all the many humanitarian needs in our world.

Lynda Hulcoop Director, Paraclete Christian Network international



SAMARITANS

5 January 2013

Dear Pam

I am writing to thank you for your kind donation to Brighton Hove and District Samaritans.

Your church's policy of sending greetings stickers within the church community and making a donation to charity is really wonderful and, as your chosen charity this year, we are truly grateful. As a branch, we have to raise all our funding ourselves, so it is always fantastic to receive a donation such as yours.

Christmas is indeed a very busy time for us. The feelings of loneliness and distress, which so many of our callers experience, can be more acute around the 'festive' season, but our Volunteers are there 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year because people who are feeling desperate do not choose when their lives reach a low point.

Please pass on my thanks and good wishes to all your church members.

Kind regards

Angela 1354

Director

Brighton, Hove and District Samaritans

Brighton, Hove & District

Dubarry House Newtown Road ,

Hove BN3 6AE

Tel: 01273 772277

www.brightonsamaritans.org

Charity No: 262742

OUR THANKS

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously to the Christmas card.

I was able to deliver a cheque for £400 to the Samaritans. They were delighted.

Pam Macaulay

CHRISTMAS THANKS

So many people helped to make all aspects of Christmas really good.

Some went beyond their normal duties so thank you to Doreen Page, Rosemary, Sheena and Ian Forrest for their help at the Parent and Toddler Parties/Nativities.

Hazel Childs, Rebekah and Abigail Smith, Emma Newman and Denzil who helped decorate the building.

Hilary Ball for decorating the tree.

Jane and Nick for providing the outside trees.

The flower team for decorating the sanctuary and vestibules so beautifully

The Co-operative Store, Nevill Road, which provided all the mince pies for the Church events.

The B.B. who helped take down the decorations and Alison who put them all away!

Keren Hancox

THANK YOU

Once again thank you to the members of the congregation who brought along baubles for the Christmas tree. Your support and generosity was much appreciated.

I would also like to say "Thank you" to the other members who decorated

the outside Christmas trees, The Advent ring, the halls and staircase and for the Candlelight Service, the holly/fir sheaths and the candles as well as the flowers during December.

It all went to make our Church very welcoming for any visitors during the Christmas period.

Hilary Ball

FAREWELL AND THANKS

I wish to thank all the community, especially in Wednesday Welcome Break and Rev. Roger for friendship and love while I have been with you and prayed with you on Sundays.

I will not forget you. I wish peace and love for everyone in the community,

Carlo.

1st Hove Girls' Brigade Company

Invite you all

To



BRUNCH

Saturday 2nd March

10.30 a.m. onwards

Ventnor Hall

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FOR 2013

COFFEE MORNINGS & BRUNCHES

February 9 th	----	Social Activities' Committee (Funds for Spring Supper)
March 2 nd	----	Girls' Brigade Brunch
March 16 th	----	Cake Stall
April 20 th	----	Craft Stall
May 11 th	----	Grocery Stall (Tuesday Fellowship)
September 14 th	----	Social Activities' Committee (Funds for Harvest Supper)
October 5 th	----	Book Stall
November 23 rd	----	Boys' Brigade

SUPPERS

April 27 th	----	Spring Supper
September 21 st	----	Harvest Supper

FAIRS

June 8 th	----	Summer Fair
December 7 th	----	Christmas Fayre

TEAS

June 29 th	----	Cream Tea for Toy & Gift Stall
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GB PANTOMIME



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.