

*150 Years of Worship and Outreach*

# Central United Reformed Church Hove



**March 2014**

# **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 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](mailto:info@centralurchove.com)**

## Dear Friends,

It is a good thing from time to time to 'take stock' - even in a church, and perhaps especially in a church - stepping back, to see how we are doing. The church is the 'body of Christ' as Paul describes it (1 Cor. 12), made up of different members, with different parts to play. This is according to our gifts - the natural talents we have - but also the spiritual gifts that God blesses us with.

There is a new initiative in the United Reformed Church of assessing each church in its ministry. This is called the Local Mission and Ministry Review process. You may remember a similar scheme which was organised when we had Districts. Now it is arranged in Area, in our case the Surrey and Sussex Area of Southern Synod. It is significant that it is called 'Mission and Ministry Review', showing that the emphasis is very much on the mission of the local church.

The Review Team will be: Stuart Dew (Lay Preacher, Hassocks URC), Review Convenor; Robert Upward (Secretary, Saltdean URC), Pastorate Facilitator; Rev. Derek Wales (Treasurer, Chichester URC), Minister's Facilitator. Church Meeting has appointed 5 people to represent our church at meetings with the Review Team, which includes one serving Elder, and 4 others, reflecting different ages and male/female balance. The whole process is likely to be spread over a six month period, starting soon.

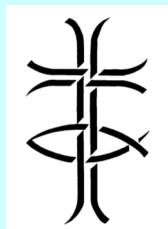
I think this will be a very useful exercise as it will assist us to see our church's outreach, worship and activities more objectively, and to see what changes need to be made - something of a reality check. The process will focus on our Pastorate Profile, which was compiled in 2005 and is presently being updated. The whole exercise will also be useful as we proceed with our application for another Minister, especially with regard to the sort of Minister we are looking for. (An Interim Moderator has now been appointed to the Pastorate: Rev. Jenny Morgan, recently retired from Banstead URC.)

Needless to say, the most important aspect of everything we do as we move forward as a church and as Pastorate, is that we continue in prayer to be guided by the Lord.

May the Lord bless us in new ways,

***Roger***

# CENTRAL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY 16TH MARCH

12 NOON

(After the morning service)

Our church is **YOUR** responsibility

*The Cake Stall*

*Invite you to*

**A**

**COFFEE MORNING**

*On*

*Saturday, 15th March at 10.00 am*

## **FAMILY NEWS FROM CENTRAL**

As we learned from last month's magazine, 2014 is the year of the "Noughties" at Central and, as the weather has improved somewhat in the past week, it seemed a good idea to begin with some happy news. More "noughty" birthdays! **James Kitchen** will celebrate his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday on Saturday 8th March and on 1<sup>st</sup> April **Keren Hancox** will also join the 60s club. We hope they have very happy birthdays and are spoiled, pampered and finish their celebrations feeling cherished.

If you are one of those who has a birthday ending in 0 this year and would like to join in our celebrations of your new decade, please contact Keren Hancox or Sheena Ireland or your Pastoral Group Leader.

One such Noughtie is **Dorothy Gale** who held a celebratory lunch for friends and family. As you can see from the photograph below, Dorothy was in sparkling form, despite her recent fall and the gash, which is very slow in healing, on her leg.



One further piece of good news is that **Doreen Simmonds** has become a great-grandmother for the first time on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, with the birth of Erin Joy Anne, 7lbs 13ozs. We wish every blessing on the new baby and her parents and pray that she may bring much joy to all her extended families.

Last Sunday we were shocked to learn that **Barbara Woolvett** had been rushed into hospital where it was confirmed that she had suffered a stroke. She is now in Saloman Ward in RSCH. We understand that it will be a

long slow convalescence for Barbara. We offer her our prayers and love and trust she knows that her friends in Central are thinking of her.

Also in the same hospital is **John Gilson**, who is in a very weak and frail condition. Please continue to hold John in prayer.

Two friends have suffered bereavements recently. We offer our sincere sympathy and prayerful support to **Gladys Moore** on the death of her brother in India and to **Joyce Magill** whose sister in N. Ireland has died. We would also ask that you hold in prayer the Ramirez family, particularly James, whose wife Gill, died in childbirth and Wesley, their baby son, who we are glad to report is flourishing. A very bitter-sweet time for all.

**Keith Austen** had a new heart defibrillator put in on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February. He is now at home and we hope that he and **Ann** will soon be able to enjoy life fully once more.

Still on the subject of husbands, we were sorry to learn that **Janette King's** husband, **Paul**, is undergoing tests and is suffering from broken ribs as the result of a bad turn during the past week. We hope everything will turn out well and he will be given an all clear. In the meantime please hold Paul and Janette in your prayers.

Overall, February has been a quiet month around Central but now things are beginning to move. We have a new Interim Moderator appointed; Roger and Kim are vigorously taking up the challenges of being "in charge"; Keren has plans afoot for the summer and YOU can show your support for the ministry and Elders by coming and participating in the **AGM on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March.**

In Botswana they use the acronym, **PUSH: Pray Until Something Happens**. Please pray for our church and its future, the Pastorate, the ill and frail, the different organisations in and associated with the church but also come and support our services and outreach efforts.

We ask you to remember in prayer: *Dale Marland, John Flack, Tebello Sibanda, Peggy McMillen, Clive & Shirley Hamblin.*

## **Now that Alex has gone.....**

Roger is relishing the challenge of being in sole charge of the Pastorate. The main change for him is taking over pastoral care of us here at Central, and he is now chaplain to all the Brigades in the Pastorate. He has to divide his time carefully to get his priorities right. We are very blessed to have him ministering to us all.

However, he cannot be in two places at once, so we will be having more visiting preachers over the coming months. Not all will suit everyone, but please give these people a chance – come and hear what they have to say, or, hopefully, what God has to say through them. They have made a big effort in preparing to lead our worship and so deserve the courtesy of our presence.

Later in March & into April, Simon Forrest will be preaching a mini-series on the Prophets. Simon is a lay preacher at Bishop Hannington Church. He has preached to us at least once before and is no stranger to Central as his daughter, Rebecca, attended our GB.

Average attendance on a Sunday morning has fallen quite sharply this past year or so, which is rather worrying. One of the benefits of public worship is that in getting together we encourage each other in our journey of faith. It is good to share this with others, so why not see who else you can invite to come along on a Sunday?

Progress in acquiring another minister is practically non-existent so far (not our fault, I can assure you!) but we have now been assigned an Interim Moderator, Rev. Jenny Morgan, who with her husband came to a morning service a couple of weeks ago. We will be seeing more of her as she, and not Roger, is responsible for all matters to do with our vacancy.

We are about to undergo a Local Mission and Ministry Review. This is not like an Ofsted Report but is designed to help us to take stock of where we are and where we want to go as a church; it encourages us to build on our strengths. At the last Church Meeting, we appointed our Review Team, consisting of Keren Hancox, Adrian Ball, Jim Lyall, Carol Tyler, and Naomi Smith. Stuart Dew, the Convenor, and Rob Upward, the facilitator, are coming to give a presentation at a short meeting immediately following the AGM, which should also be very brief, when more detailed information will be given.

With best wishes to you all,

*Sheena Ireland*  
Church Secretary

## **Christian Aid in Egypt**

Life for everyone has become increasingly difficult in recent years and the minority Christian Community is no exception. Sarah, a grandmother who grew up in Cairo alongside Muslim friends said, “Things are changing, when I was a girl, the only difference was that we worshipped at different places. We went to school together, played together and lived on the same streets.” She says that she feels that Christians and Muslims don’t have as much opportunity to mix these days. Sometimes when she goes into a shop she is ignored until everyone else is served. It used to be that everyone was treated the same but not any more. The church she attends in central Cairo has been protected by armed guards.

Sara encouraged Alison Knight, Christian Aids senior Legacy Officer, to visit the garbage village on the outskirts of Cairo. Here Coptic Christians live and work among the domestic rubbish from the richer suburbs of the city - collecting and recycling what they can. The stench is overpowering, especially in the heat of the Egyptian sun. Children play within inches of rats. But in the hills above the garbage village are the most beautiful cave churches, built and maintained by the local community, several thousand of whom attend services every Sunday.

Christian Aid works alongside partner organisations in Egypt with the poorest communities throughout Egypt, both Christian and Muslim. It worked in Rashah, one of Cairo’s poorer suburbs to create a public park. The rubbish had not been recycled but simply thrown into the streets. A community development committee was set up and now there are green spaces and the rubbish is being dealt with.

Poor and disadvantaged women and men, including farmers, domestic workers and miners are frequently excluded from achieving equal social and economic rights. Christian Aid and its partners work with communities to overcome poverty by supporting them to participate equally in the labour force, be fairly rewarded for their work, access education and other essential services.

Egypt has experienced dramatic social, economic and political upheaval since the popular uprising three years ago. The turmoil has left a wake of poverty, unemployment and uncertainty affecting millions of families across the country.

Pray that the uncertainties surrounding Egypt will be resolved in peace.





'Streams in the Desert'



Friday  
7th March  
Women's  
World Day  
of Prayer  
All are welcome



Praying for Egypt

# **HOLLAND ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH**

**10.30 a.m.**

**Nearest bus stop is  
Palmeira Square.**

[www.wwdp-natcomm.org](http://www.wwdp-natcomm.org) Registered Charity Number 233242

**Speaker: Pastor Gadalla Tiab**  
**Pastor of the Arab Community Church**

# **CHURCH CALENDAR**

## **MARCH**

SUN 2	Family Service – Holy Communion Rev Roger Wood Evening Worship – The Junction	10.30 am  6.30 pm
Mon 3	Ladies Prayer Group	8.00 pm
Wed 5	Pastoral Group Leaders' Meeting	7.30 pm
Fri 7	WOMENS' WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Holland Road Baptist Church Speaker: Rev. Gadalla Tiab	10.30 am
SUN 9	Family Service Rev Peter Elliott Evening Worship The "I am" sayings of Jesus Rev. Lynda Hulcoop	10.30 am  6.30 pm
Tue 11	Tuesday Fellowship Help for Heroes – Ian Blakey	2.30 pm
Wed 12	Elders' Meeting	7.30 pm
Sat 15	COFFEE MORNING – Cake Stall	10.00 am
SUN 16	Family Service Amos – The Bad News Prophet Simon Forrest Church Annual General Meeting Evening Worship Rev Roger Wood	10.30 am   12.00 noon 6.30 pm
Wed 19	Men's Fellowship – Film Night	7.30 pm

SUN 23	Family Service – Parade Isaiah – The Big News Prophet Simon Forrest Evening Worship – Holy Communion Rev. Peter Elliott	10.30 am   6.30 pm
Tue 25	Tuesday Fellowship – Members’ Afternoon	2.30 pm
SUN 30	Family Service Jonah – The Disillusioned Prophet Simon Forrest Evening Worship – Elders’ Special Tony Clark & Keren Hancox	10.30 am   6.30 pm
Mon 31	Christian Book Club “Have a Little Faith” – Mitch Albom ( Peter & Celia Elliott)	8.00 pm

## **APRIL**

SUN 6	Family Service – Holy Communion Malachi – The Final Prophet Simon Forrest Evening Worship - The Junction	10.30 am   6.30 pm
-------	---	-----------------------------

- All contributions for the **APRIL** edition of the magazine must be handed in no later than **SUNDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> MARCH.**
- 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.

CENTRAL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, HOVE

Shake off the Winter Blues!  
The sun is beginning to shine!  
Book your ticket for our

# SPRING SUPPER

SATURDAY 26TH APRIL

AT 6.30 PM

TICKETS £8.00 & £4.00 (for under 12s)



## FLOWERS FOR MARCH

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ruth Shepherd
9 <sup>th</sup>	Barbara Woolvett
	Dorothy Welsh
16 <sup>th</sup>	Available
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Ann & Jenny – in memory of their parents, Frank & Betty
30 <sup>th</sup>	Denzil & Rosemary Brice



## WWDP GRANTS

Every year the money from the offerings taken up at WWDP services is distributed to various charities—not all well known. Some of the grants were used as follows:

**Torch Trust** - enabled them to develop a specialist IT project for blind and partially sighted people.

**FRME** (Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East) - went towards humanitarian aid, medical and dental care through St George's Church bagdad

**Dumi** supports a small community in Zimbabwe . Their grant went to providing much-needed practical resources for Mapengani Primary School.

**Toybox** works with children who have been abandoned or abused. The money was used in two of their homes in Guatemala.

## **PARACLETE**



### **Back from Zimbabwe**

As many of you will know, I travelled to Zimbabwe in mid January with my brother, Stephen, to undertake a range of activities with Paraclete Christian Network International at our training Centre in Kuwadzana. It was a busy, intense but fruitful time running Bible

courses, doing practical work around the buildings, seeing the development of our secondary school, holding our annual Bible School graduation and participating in lots of meetings with the staff and teachers. It is so encouraging to report that, while the country sadly continues to experience decline, the various projects at the centre go from strength to strength.

Particularly, the work of the secondary school has developed well. This year we have around 140 students and we have now been registered as an examination centre for O Levels (Yes, do you remember good old fashioned O levels?). This means we will hold examinations twice a year in June and November for our own students and those in the wider community. This registration comes as a result of the hard work of the teachers locally and efficient running of the school so that now we are held up as a role model for other schools. Praise God! The school has now started sports clubs with competitions against other local schools.

During 2013 we held a number of weddings using the wedding attire sent out in the container and it is good to spot lots of different items donated by Hove Central being put to good use. For 2014 we have plans to develop the Bible School at the heart of the training centre. This year's graduation was a wonderful, joyful event with much singing and dancing plus for the first time our students had caps, hoods and gowns all in Paraclete Colours made by a lady in Lynda's church. They looked wonderful and added to the sense of achievement. Also for 2014, we will try to establish links with a local secondary school for twinning and partnership. Please pray this can happen.

May I add a big thank you to that passed on by Adrian Ball to all at Central for such faithful and generous support over Christmas and especially to the staff and boys of the BB for their magnificent fund raising effort. Rest assured that all this money raised will go to Zimbabwe for the work of the centre and will bring such blessing into the lives of many.

P.S. Quiz question. During our stay we took a day off to go to a nature reserve and there we saw a rare animal – a pangolin. Who knows what such a creature is?

Lynda Hulcoop



## **CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB**

At last! A book we all enjoyed. A book which lived up to all the blurbs of the newspaper critics.

If you are feeling depressed and Spring fever has not raised your spirits, this book will make you laugh aloud. It is witty and clever: it is knowledgeable – you will learn more about salmon and fishing than you ever dreamed and not realise you are doing so. If you ever liked *Yes Minister* or *Spitting Image* or *The Office* then you will enjoy this book. If you ever watched *House of Cards* on TV or read the book on which the series was based you will enjoy this book.

With the lightest of touches the author provides us with a satire on the tensions between the West and the Middle East, the manipulativeness of modern government, romance and marriage, and yet at a deeper level it gives food for thought as it examines the importance of belief and faith for mankind.

The central character- one hesitates to call him hero, although there is some heroism within him, Dr Alfred Jones, is not merely a grey man – he is beige. His job in the National Centre for Fisheries Excellence says it all as does his overwhelming interest in researching the cadis fly. His marriage to the overwhelmingly ambitious yet overwhelmingly dull Mary is not even as bright as beige. Yet all is slowly and quietly transformed by his being seconded to work on a project to bring salmon fishing to the Yemen and his meeting Sheikh Muhammed ibn Zaidi bani Tihama, who is prepared to fund the whole project. The Sheikh sees its as a way of helping his countrymen become less feudal and more modern. This in its turn brings about a negative reaction from the deeply conservative elements in Yemen and beyond.

So, Middle Eastern socio-religious politics rears its head and on the other Western side there is the vacuous posturing of egocentric politicians, whose lives are concerned with the next photo opportunity/ television appearance and the machiavellian work of the spin doctor.

The character of Peter Maxwell provoked one of the strongest discussions of the evening. We all loathed him but was he satirising Bernard Ingam or Peter Mandelson or was it perhaps, the Prince of darkness himself, Alastair Campbell? Read the book and make your own choice. It is very obvious on whom the character of the Prime Minister is based.



The other character generally disliked, especially by the women gathered around the table, was Mary Jones, Fred's wife. She was roundly condemned until one of the men leapt to her defence and accused the ladies of being sexist. If a man had put his marriage on hold and pursued his ambitions for promotion and a large salary, would he have been condemned or praised?

On a deeper level, away from, political manoeuvrings and correctness is a gentle examination of faith. The Sheikh has it and Fred Jones claims he does not. But gradually the reader sees that he is being gently led unconsciously to realising that in hope there is belief and in that the beginning of faith. Certain paragraphs read almost like Corinthians.

The Sheikh, at one point says, “ I want to present God with the opportunity to perform a miracle, a miracle he will perform, if He so wills it..... when anyone sees a salmon swimming up the waters of the Wadi Aleyn, will they any longer be able to doubt the existence of God?

This beautifully crafted book with its economical use of language, its twists and unexpected turns, its wonderfully depicted characters, its use of climax and bathos and especially its characters will draw you in until you do not wish to be disturbed.

It is small wonder that after its publication Yemen was faced with a rush of tourists and had to issue a formal notice that there are no salmon to be fished in the Yemen.

On 31st March, given one of the themes of “Salmon Fishing in the Yemen” the book under discussion will be *Have a Little Faith* by Mitch Albon. We will meet at Celia and Peter Elliott's flat, Do join us.

## **WATER STATION**

Water Station is a non-profit, all volunteer organisation. It deploys and maintains water stations in the Southern California Desert. The goal is to prevent people from dying from heat and dehydration whilst crossing the desert areas in the hot summer months. Its characteristic blue, or orange and blue, flags can be seen along Highway 98 or other parts of the desert.

Our churches should be like water stations in the desert of the world, where the water of eternal life is needed to keep our humanity alive and aid us on the journey of life.

*Good Lord, when our souls are parched and dry like the desert send the sweet rain of Your Spirit to revive our faith and reinvigorate us in the tasks of love, joy and peace.*

*May streams of your living water flow from us to enrich all around with your blessings.*

*Through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

## **CENTRAL'S OOOOOOS' PARTY.**

Do you gain an O this year?

Perhaps you know someone who does?

If so please tell Keren.

We are having a Church party on 5<sup>th</sup> July to celebrate all Central's Os in 2014. So far we know of ten ranging from  
40 to 90

So it should be a great time, but more would be good.

It will be held at Rev. Michael Maine's house in Ditchling. So we can be in the garden as well.

Don't forget to book the date. Details to follow.



## **CENTRAL'S COPYRIGHT LICENCES**

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:

*Author, © Year, © Owner, CCL licence number 12011*

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

**(b)**.....photocopying words out of a book then you have to acknowledge at the foot of the photocopy the following details:

*Photocopied By Permission. MRL Licence No 806540*

No further action required for photocopying !

### **BE WEB AWARE!**

Our church website, [www.centralurchove.com](http://www.centralurchove.com) has lots of photographs of events for which there just is not enough space in the magazine.

It carries information about organisations and coming events.

You can also read the magazine on the website and enlarge the print, making it an easier read.

# CENTRAL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HOVE

Corner of Ventnor Villas and Blatchington Road, Hove  
Church Hall Telephone: 01273 734162  
[www.centralurchove.com](http://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.