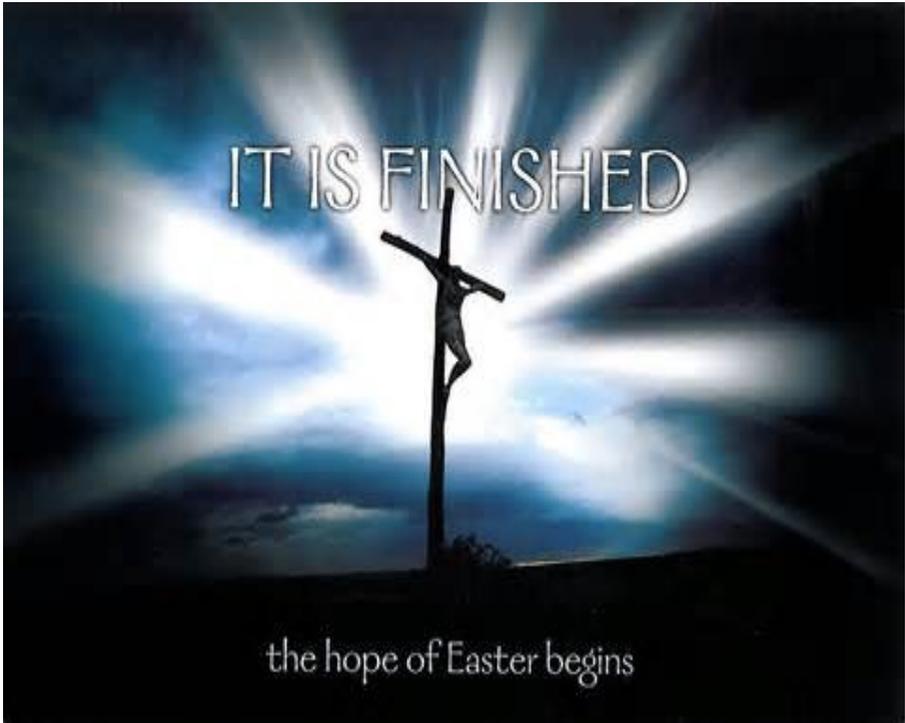


150 Years of Worship and Outreach

Central United Reformed Church Hove



April 2014

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

<i>Sunday Youth Ministry</i>	Mrs. A. Austen Mrs C. Vaughan
<i>Boys' Brigade</i> (Mondays)	Mr. C. Jukes
<i>Girls' Club</i> (Tuesday)	Mrs. S. Hill
<i>Tuesday Fellowship</i> (Alternate Tuesdays)	Mrs Celia Baines – Holmes
<i>Men's Fellowship</i> (Third Wednesday)	Mr. P. Gear
<i>Welcome Break</i> (Wednesdays)	Mrs. P. Macaulay
<i>Bluebird Parent & under 3s Group</i>	Mrs K. Hancox
Church Web Site	Mr John Brewster

Church Hall Tel: 01273 734162

Email: info@centralurchove.com

Dear Friends,

As Spring gives way to Easter, it's that time of year when we celebrate the central truths of our faith. Whereas Christmas is very heavily commercialised, it's not so easy for the shops to get their teeth into this festival! Apart from chocolate, and the Easter eggs that appeared as soon as Christmas was over, there's not a lot more that they can make money from! It gives us the opportunity to think more seriously about the events that changed the world.

The birth of Jesus was the beginning of our calendar, but it is Easter which resulted in history never being the same again. The life of a good man can have a great impact, but the death of even a great man is not going to light up the world. But the death, and resurrection of a great man is something that has never happened before or since, and it calls into question the term 'a great man'.

The drama of Easter is palpable - from the despair, denial, defeat and death of Jesus, to hope, affirmation, victory, and life! What is more, Christ's victory is our victory, Christ's restoration to life means that we too have the prospect and the promise of eternal life.

The world may think that this is far-fetched and too good to be true, but we know it is very good and is also true. Admittedly, we know this by faith, but it is not blind faith. We have the evidence of eye-witness accounts in the Gospels, and we also have the evidence of the worldwide Church today. If the first disciples hadn't known for a fact that Jesus was alive, there is not the slightest possibility that they could have turned the world upside down.

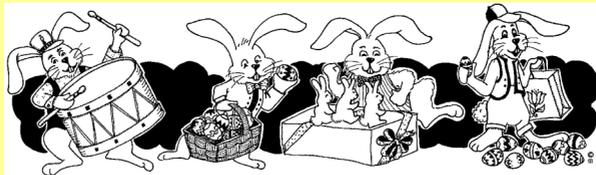
If there is any doubt in our minds that these things happened, we should recall the testimony of Thomas, who was transformed from 'doubting Thomas' to the man who exclaimed to the risen Jesus: "My Lord and my God!" But it is Jesus' response to Thomas that is even more significant:

"Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen me and yet have believed." (*John 20 v. 28, 29*)

God bless,

Roger

CENTRAL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, HOVE



SPRING SUPPER

SATURDAY 26TH APRIL
AT 6.30 PM



TICKETS £8.00 & £4.00 (for under 12s)

Now available from members of the Social Activities Committee

FAMILY NEWS FROM CENTRAL

Last month we published a picture of **Dorothy Gale** celebrating her 90th birthday, despite her injured leg. You may be interested to know that she continued to practise mind over matter by presiding at the Brighton & Hove Flower Club' A.G.M. She looked her usual elegant self and obviously relished the occasion. However, it was tinged with sadness, as Dorothy has decided to stand down as the club's President, after many years of service to it in numerous capacities.

Two other friends also showed their indomitable spirit. **Doreen Fookes** has been to church a few times now, albeit in her wheelchair, and is her usual cheerful self and looking great. She had a very happy birthday celebration (not a noughty one) with her family. **Doreen Simmons** was whisked back to N. Ireland by her daughter for a week and has seen her new great-grand daughter. She also caught up with lots of friends and family and is ready to go back anytime. We are also glad to report that her husband, Gerry's operation has been successful and he is looking very well.

As it says in the Book Club's Choice of book, "Have a Little Faith",

“ Getting old we can deal with. Being old is the problem.”

Speaking of husbands. Please hold **Keith Austen** and **Paul King** in your prayers. The health of both is causing considerable concern. Please pray that full diagnoses and solutions to the problems of both may be speedily reached. Pray also for **Ann** and **Janette**, respectively and for their families during this anxious time.

Dale Marland is still in hospital in Brighton in Lewes Ward **John Flack** has moved into Bell Memorial Nursing Home in Lancing after a spell in hospital. Please keep them both in your prayers **John Gilson** is now home and a care package has been arranged for him.

Barbara Woolvett has been moved from Brighton to Haywards Heath hospital to recuperate from the stroke she suffered at the end of February and to receive some rehabilitation therapy. We hope that this will benefit her.

There is, however, some good news on various health fronts. **Mary Doo** has been given the all clear and so, happily, her plans to visit her brother in Canada can proceed rapidly. Her passport application is in and we trust that all will go well for her and her brother whom she has not seen for

many years. **Colin Hancox** has received some good news about his eyes, while the macular degeneration has slowed but not gone away, the swelling behind his eyes has gone down, so the three months of injections in the eyes has been helpful. It was the best birthday present for Keren.

We were also pleased to learn that **Jayne Packham**, Portslade URC's Church Secretary, has recovered enough from her heart problems to be allowed home. We trust she will quickly be back to health once more.

Naomi McBain has been working with the parents of Bluebird Toddlers Group for the past six weeks. As on previous visits she has proved to be a great success and the parents have loved her ideas and suggestions. The final session was called "Messy Play" and this fully lived up to its title but was hugely enjoyed by all. Other sessions involved dealing with sibling rivalry, setting boundaries and language. Already the course is reaping rewards, according to their response sheets and the parental reactions have been very positive.

As you will know, the churches of the pastorate are now undergoing the Local Mission and Ministry Review process. We met the Review team, after the church's A.G. M. and each member explained his part. They are due to meet with Central's Review Representatives next week. In case you are unaware who these are – **Adrian Ball, Keren Hancox, Jim Lyall, Naomi Smith, and Carol Tyler**. Please hold all of them and the subsequent meetings in your prayers and ask God's blessing on their deliberations. In all, may His Will be done.

Also at the A.G.M., some friends indicated that they would be standing down from their responsibilities. We would like to thank Alasdair Macaualy for his work on the Finance Committee and Jill Humphrey for her help on the Social Activities Committee. Stephen Gledhill has agreed to help in her place. Chris Hill is standing down as Elder, but, thankfully will continue as Church Treasurer and Peter Elliott is standing down as Chairman of St Cuthbert's Committee but will continue to serve as a member on the committee. Roger Wood has agreed to become Chairman. To each of these we owe our sincere gratitude and appreciation for their dedication and time over the years as we do to so many others who seek to serve the Lord and His church in Central. Never let us take them for granted.

We ask you to remember in prayer: *Tebello Sibanda, Peggy McMillen, Clive & Shirley Hamblin, Jill Humphrey and Sheila Rich.*

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Emma Newman has become the 45th, and last, member of 1st Hove Girls' Brigade Company to achieve the Gold Award in the Duke of Edinburgh's Scheme.

In January, Emma undertook the final section for her Gold – the residential requirement, giving a week's service at a "Vitalise" Centre in Southampton. This charity organises courses and holidays which, with the support of volunteer helpers like Emma, enable adults with a variety of special needs to enjoy breaks away. Emma coped admirably with the challenge of this new environment and is hoping to volunteer with "Vitalise" again this summer.

Confirmation has now been received that Emma has attained her Gold Award and her brooch will be presented locally. She awaits an invitation to St. James' Palace, where she will receive her certificate.

Emma continues as a loyal and valued helper in the Girls' Club, where she, no doubt, finds her G.B. and Duke of Edinburgh training useful in the two sections, which she leads.

So ends 57 years of this church's involvement with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme through its 1st Hove Girls' Brigade Company – from the national introduction of the girls' award in 1957 - 2014.

P.M.M.



Emma Newman

10th Boys' Brigade Company

We have slightly altered our meeting times. We continue to meet on Monday evenings, as usual, but the following are the times for each section:

Anchors 6.15 – 7.30 p.m.

Juniors 6.15 – 7.30 p.m.

Company 7.30 – 9.30 p.m.

We plan to hold our Awards Evening on Monday 12th May at 6.30 p.m. and would be delighted to welcome you there. Please make a note of the date in your diaries.



Lost & Found

A few weeks ago, a paper carrier bag containing several coin filled money bags was left in the Minister's Vestry. As yet, no one has come forward to claim it. If anyone knows anything about this cash, would they please speak to Chris Hill or me.

Tony Clark

GOOD FRIDAY

High Noon in George Street
+Stations of the Cross+

18th April 2014

11a.m. Starting at St John's, Palmeira
Square,
reaching George Street at 12 noon and
finishing at St Andrew (Old Church)

St John the Baptist:	Jesus condemned to death
All Saint's:	Jesus falls
Sacred Heart:	Jesus meets His Mother
Hove URC:	Simon of Cyrene
George Street (middle):	Jesus stripped of His garments
George Street (bottom):	Jesus nailed to the Cross
St Andrew (Old Church):	Jesus dies on the Cross

There will be tea, coffee and hot cross buns afterwards in St Andrew's Church Hall, Church Road, Hove – all welcome.

CHURCH CALENDAR

APRIL

SUN 6	Family Service – Holy Communion Malachi – The Final Prophet Simon Forrest Evening Worship - The Junction	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Tue 8	Tuesday Fellowship – Ruth Guy Mercy Ships U.K.	2.30 pm
SUN 13	PALM SUNDAY Family Service Rev. Peter Elliott Evening Worship Rev. Lynda Hulcoop	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Thu 17	MAUNDY THURSDAY Tenebrae Rev. Peter Elliott	8.00 pm
Fri 18	GOOD FRIDAY Service Rev. Roger Wood Walk of Witness (See separate notice)	10.00 am 11.00 am
SUN 20	EASTER SUNDAY Seafront Service Promenade at the bottom of Grand Avenue) Easter Breakfast (in the church halls) Easter Family Service Rev. Roger Wood Easter Evening Worship – Holy Communion Rev. Roger Wood	8.00 am 9.00 am 10.30 am 6.30 pm
Tue 22	Tuesday Fellowship – Members’ Afternoon	2.30 pm
Wed 23	Men’s Fellowship	7.45 pm
Sat 26	SPRING SUPPER (Tickets available now)	6.30 pm

SUN 27	Family Service – Parade John Du Bois Evening Worship Rev. Lynda Hulcoop	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Mon 28	Christian Book Club – Bolts from the Blue Clare Popley	8.00 pm

MAY

SUN 4	Family Service – Holy Communion Rev. Roger Wood Evening Worship – The Junction	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Tue 6	Tuesday Fellowship – Trish Penney R.N.L.I	2.15 pm

- All contributions for the **MAY** edition of the magazine must be handed in no later than **SUNDAY 20th APRIL.**
- 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.





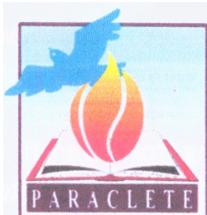
FLOWERS FOR APRIL

- 13th Adrian & Hilary Ball – in memory of their parents
20th Easter Flowers
27th Easter Flowers

If anyone would like to make a contribution to the cost of flowers for Easter, please give it to Rosemary Brice or any Elder as soon as possible.

Your help in decorating the sanctuary is also needed on Saturday 19th April from 10.00 a.m.

If anyone has any foliage, could you please leave it, in a bucket of water, in the flower room, by Good Friday afternoon. Thank you.



PARACLETE MINISTRY

Please keep the work and people of the Paraclete Ministry's **English Church in Benidorm** in your prayers. As you know, Marion Robertson, the wife of the new pastor, Alan, died in January and consequently there have necessarily been a few changes to be made. Alan has returned to England for five month's leave to have space, be restored and seek to know God's plans for the future.

Please pray for all those who will be ministering over these months, including Eddie & Muriel McMillan, Mike Dixon and Malcolm and Ann Dunn.

The Prayer & Discipleship Centre, Nagaland.

The work here goes on faithfully and quietly, week by week blessing people's lives, bringing healing and wholeness. Please continue to pray for all those associated with it.

A MATTER OF CONCERN OR A CHALLENGE?

Recently I have been working on the redrafting of our Pastorate Profile; the set of documents that will be sent to anyone expressing an interest in our vacant Ministerial Post to give them a feel of the three Churches and of the town and environment in which we minister.

Included in the Pastorate Profile is some demographic information on Brighton and Hove taken from the results of the 2011 Census. It was interesting to compare the 2011 data with that from 2001 which was used the last time the Pastorate Profile was redone. In particular, the data appertaining to “Stated Religion” grabbed my attention:

Stated Religion	2001	2010
Christian	59.10%	42.90%
Other	5.00%	5.90%
No religion	27.00%	42.40%
Religion not stated	8.90%	8.80%

As you can see, the percentages of people in Brighton and Hove stating adherence to a religion other than Christianity, or declining to answer the question, have not changed much. There has, however, been a very marked decrease in those giving Christianity as their religion and a virtually corresponding increase in those stating they have no religious beliefs at all.

To put it in terms other than percentages, at the time of the 2001 census. 5.9 people in every 10 claimed to be Christian but 10 years later this had dropped to 4.3 in 10. In the same period, those who had no religious beliefs had increased from 2.7 in every 10 to 4.2 in 10.

I suppose to an extent this reflects the drop in church attendances everywhere but, that said, I do not imagine that 59% of the population attended services regularly in 2001 any more than I imagine that 43% do now. I would guess that this change is due to a number of factors including it being more acceptable to express religious doubts now than it used to be and that we live in an increasingly avaricious world. I would also guess that so much “bad press” has had an effect.

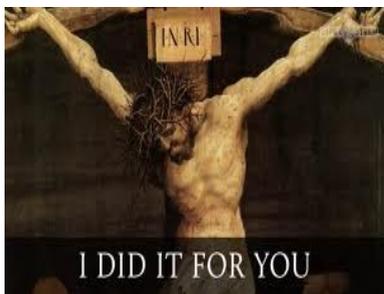
Whatever the reason it could be seen as a matter of real concern but it would be more uplifting to see it as a challenge.

Tony Clark

GOOD FRIDAY

Read : Isaiah Ch. 53 vv. 3—10

Pray: Christ Jesus, You hung upon a cross and died for us
So that we might live for You.
Your body was broken and Your blood shed
So that we might be healed and made whole.
You were faithful unto death
So that we might be faithful unto life
Your last command was that we might love one another
One family together from every tribe and nation,
A new creation united through Your sacrifice, redeemed by Your blood
Healed by Your love united by Your covenant of peace
In Your death may we find life.



EASTER SUNDAY

Read: Luke Ch 24 vv. 1– 9

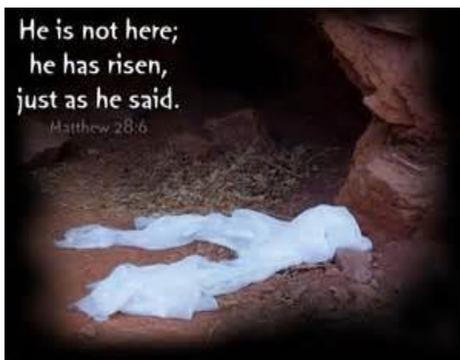
When the broken come to wholeness,
When the wounded come to healing,
When the frightened come to trusting
The stone has been rolled away

When the lonely find friendship
When the hurt find new loving
When the worried find peace
The stone has been rolled away

When we share instead of taking
When we stroke instead of striking
When we join around the table
The stone has been rolled away

In You, Christ Jesus,
Love breaks through hatred
Hope breaks through despair
Life breaks through death.

HALLELUJAH! Christ is risen!



CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB

“*Have a Little Faith*” was in itself a mini-miracle – for the second month in succession, we had a book which everyone liked. Some had not wanted it to end because they liked it so much; another confessed that after reading it she thought she might make a good Jew and yet another was very relieved that it was not in the same mode as an earlier book, by Mitch Albom, *Five People you might meet in Heaven*.

It is difficult to exactly describe one’s reaction to this book. It is too thought provoking to use the word “enjoyed”, although there were moments that made one smile. In the same way, it would be hyperbolic to use the word “loved” because there were several moments when one felt “uncomfortable” as one recognised one of our own weaknesses or fallibility.

Mitch Albom tells the stories of two “Men of God” who were also just human, Rabbi Albert Lewis and Pastor Henry Covington. Two men from different religious traditions, different backgrounds, different races but who through keeping faith with their faith walked and talked closely with God in great humility.

This is not a “preachy” book. Each reader will find a different lesson or anecdote, which speaks to him/her. There is theology but not in a deep drowning sense, rather of common sense. It is often the manmade theologies, which separate men of faith from each other.

- *Most religions teach us to love our neighbour. Then who our neighbour is doesn’t matter.*

These men can recognise goodness and need and desperation in others whatever their creed and accept it. A blessing from a Christian to a Jew is still a blessing and vice versa.

It would be difficult to imagine two people in more differing situations: one a rabbi in a big American synagogue with every modern gadget; the other a pastor of “Am I my Brother’s Keeper Church, in a defunct decaying church building with huge holes in the roof, no heat and water being caught in buckets, who ministers to the homeless the drug addicts the alcoholics. But both of them **know**.

Some of the deepest problems which affect us are touched on in this book. How do you accept / come to terms with the death of a child? When do you pray and do you mean your prayers. Do you pray when you

have a good job, a good marriage, a happy family and life is good? OR do you bargain with God when life is the pits and do you keep your side of the bargain?

“Have a Little Faith” is both comforting and uncomfortable; makes you smile, at times ruefully; can be dipped into or read seriously but it *is* worth reading. It is not a book that having read it once, you will put away and never open again. You will want to turn to it and think once more. It is also a good present, if you don't do Easter eggs. A thoughtful and pleasing gift at any time.

Our next meeting will be on 28th April at 8.00 p.m. at Clare Popley's home, when the book of choice will be *“Bolts from the Blue”* by Rabbi Lionel Blue.

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Pastor Henry's sermon on a wet Sunday as the rain pours into the church:

...For a few moments I despaired because I don't know where the money will come from to fix the roof. But then I stopped. I stopped because I realised something. The Lord, you see, He's interested in what you do but the Lord don't care nothing about no building..

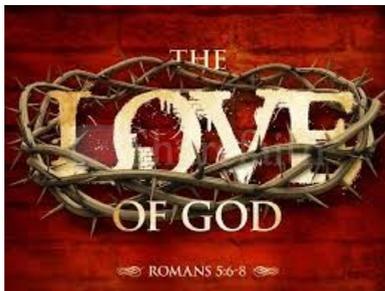
Jesus said, “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow but tomorrow will worry about itself.” God don't care about no building. He cares about you, and what's in your heart.

And if this is the place we come to worship....if this is the only place we can come to worship... Then it is holy to Him.

The people rose convinced that while their building might be disintegrating, their souls were still in sight....

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What is there that forgiveness cannot achieve?



YOUR LETTERS

To all Central church members and friends,

I would like to thank you for your very kind gift of the church flowers. You know, I am sure, how much I love flowers and they always give me joy and pleasure.

They have been much admired.

With love and best wishes,

Dorothy Gale.

* * * *

Dear Friends,

I would like to say thank you to the Book Club, Parent & Toddler Group, Girls' Club and church friends for all their cards and presents for my birthday.

It almost made being 60 worthwhile.

Love,

Keren.



"...consistent element of life and forward motion, glorious ensemble moments, a wonderful sense of rhythm..."

Leicester Mercury 2010



8 is Great

Conductor: Giles Turner

Kingfisher Chorale
showcase the best 8-part
music to enjoy and surprise

LOTTI | GABRIELI | BARBER | TALLIS | TAVENER

Saturday 28th June 2014 at 7.30pm |

Central United Reformed Church, Ventnor Villas,
Hove, BN3 3YF

Tickets | 01273 881348 | Adults £8 (£10 on the door) Students £3

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www.kingfisherchorale.org

**For tickets and further information contact
Keren Hancox**

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)

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.

Fourth Sunday of the month at 6.30 p.m.

Hallelujah



He is risen!