

150 Years of Worship and Outreach

Central United Reformed Church Hove

"And she shall bring forth a son,
and thou shalt call his name JESUS:
for he shall save his people from their sins."
Matthew (1:21)



May the miracle of Christmas touch your life!

December 2014– January 2015

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Sunday Youth Ministry

Mrs. A. Austen

Mrs C. Vaughan

Boys' Brigade
(Mondays)

Mr. C. Jukes

Girls' Club
(Tuesday)

Mrs. S. Hill

Tuesday Fellowship
(Alternate Tuesdays)

Mrs H Brown

Men's Fellowship
(Third Wednesday)

Mr. P. Gear

Welcome Break
(Wednesdays)

Mrs. P. Macaulay

Bluebird Parent & under 3s Group

Mrs K. Hancox

Church Web Site

Mr John Brewster

Church Hall Tel: 01273 734162

Email: info@centralurchove.com

Dear Friends,

It's that wonderful time of the year again, commonly called 'Christmas', and sometimes 'Xmas', and even 'Winter Festival', depending on the degree of political correctness! The hard sell started in the shops 2 or 3 months ago, but there is little point complaining about the commercialisation of Christmas. This has become a fact of modern life. We, as Christians, can celebrate what Christmas is really about, and we can be part of the campaign begun a few years ago to 'put Christ back into **Christmas**'.

What is more, we can celebrate the season of Advent. We have this time when we can anticipate and look forward to the coming of the Christ child. We count down the Sundays, remembering firstly the patriarchs of old, including Abraham, who received the promise from God that he would be "the father of many nations." We recall the prophets who foretold a child being born who would be called "Mighty God", "Everlasting Father", "Prince of Peace". On the 3rd Sunday of Advent we remember John the Baptist, the forerunner of the ministry of Jesus, "the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." On the 4th Sunday, we celebrate Mary, told by the angel Gabriel, "You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus." Then on **Christmas Day**, we celebrate the special birth - "Immanuel - which means, 'God with us'."

This is the most marvellous thing about the season of Advent - God breaking through into human history in the person of that little baby. The risk and the humility were incredible. "Christ Jesus: Who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant" (Phil. 2 v. 6, 7).

The most important thing about Advent and **Christmas** is **our** response. "If I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give Him - give my heart." The heart of **Christmas** is Christ - how appropriate that we respond with the love of our hearts.

Wishing you a truly happy and blessed **Christmas**,

Roger

CHURCH DIRECTORY



Peter Reško—our newest member
2nd November 2014

FAMILY NEWS FROM CENTRAL

In last month's magazine we reported that **Doreen Simmons** had returned to N. Ireland to be near her daughters because her health had deteriorated so much. This month, it is with great sadness, we learned that Doreen died suddenly and peacefully in the early hours of 24th November. Her funeral took place on Friday 28th November.

We will miss Doreen's lovely smile, her love of a wee chat but above all her friendship. She loved this church and congregation and attended morning service every Sunday – unless she was visiting “home.” It was only in the last year, as she became increasingly fragile, that her attendance became more irregular but even then she made great efforts to come, especially on 1st and 2nd Sundays. Doreen was very sociable and enjoyed the Tuesday Fellowship, serving on its committee and also helping out at Welcome Break, serving lunches. Everyone, who has spoken of her, talks of her smile and how pleasant she was to each of them. She was the embodiment of the old adage, “If you can't say anything good about someone, say nothing.”

We give thanks for her friendship and extend our sincere sympathy to Gerry, her husband, her daughters, Helen and Hilary, and all the family circle and pray that our loving God will comfort and sustain them in their grief.

As so often happens, with the loss of one friend, God provides hope for the future and we look forward to the morning service of 14th December, when **Melody Correen Leeks** will be baptised by Rev. Peter Elliott. Melody will be the fourth generation of her family to be present that day and we pray that she will be a blessing to her parents, **Kirsty and Andrew**, and to all her family, bringing them much joy.



Doreen & Christine
Andrew, Kirsty &
Melody

That same Sunday is ***Back to Church Sunday***, so why not invite a friend or someone, who used to come, to come along to church and join in the double celebration of a baptism and the Third Sunday of Advent.

Still, enjoying good news, we would like to congratulate **Willi Ghosal**, who will celebrate her 80th birthday on 15th December. Willi is one of our amazing octogenarians. She does so much work for us, quietly in the background. Whenever there is an appeal for help, Willi responds. We would like to thank her for all her service and friendship as well as wishing her a very happy birthday.

Ros Ayling has decided to go into a nursing home and we are happy to learn that she has settled in and feels very content and settled. She enjoys the company and is improving in health and spirit.

On the other hand **John Gilson's** health is causing concern as he seems to be in and out of hospital. No sooner is he home but he is re-admitted once more. We pray that he may soon be on a more steady course soon.

True to the words in her letter, **Sheila Lyall** is back in church before this magazine is published! We were delighted to welcome her back to church last Sunday. She is making good steady progress and doing the exercises faithfully.

Making progress too is another Sheila. **Sheila Lovie** has had an operation and is now home recuperating. We hope that she continues to recover and her convalescence goes smoothly.

We have just learned that **Jan Owen** has been admitted to the Royal Sussex Hospital. Fortunately, the nurse was with her when she became ill at home. We pray that she will make a swift and sure recovery.

We miss them all as we also, especially at this time of year, miss those friends who are unable to be with us through frailty or other reasons. We ask you to keep them constantly in your prayers:

Tebello Sibanda, Peggy McMillan, Clive & Shirley Hamblin, Barbara Woolvett.

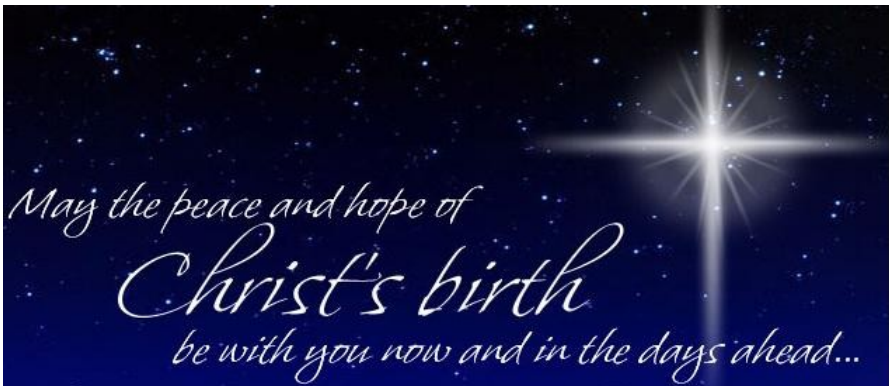
On a different note, Parade Service in November was certainly different from our usual format, as it was conducted along the lines of Junction, our Evening Service on the first Sunday of every month. Thus, through engaging all kinds of multi-media, we were able to enjoy a different approach to worship, even including the announcements! At least there was no excuse for forgetting them!! We also gained an insight into the

activities of BB, Girls' Club and, of course, The Junction. For those of you who were not there some of the photographs throughout this magazine are from that presentation. If you have acquired a taste for or would like more, The Junction regulars and the J Team would be delighted to welcome you. Remember FIRST Sunday evening of each month. Worship but not as you know it.

One feature of The Junction is "Gear's Years" when **Peter Gear** talks with a purpose. In this talk he recalled his youth and the influence the Boys' Brigade had on him. In particular, he talked of the influence one officer, the Drill Master, exerted. That was, of course, **Dick Dench**. We were delighted to know that Dick is still highly respected by the BB, who helped him celebrate his 95th birthday with a suitably designed birthday cake.



Birthday Boy– Dick Dench



10TH BRIGHTON(HOVE)

BOYS' BRIGADE COMPANY

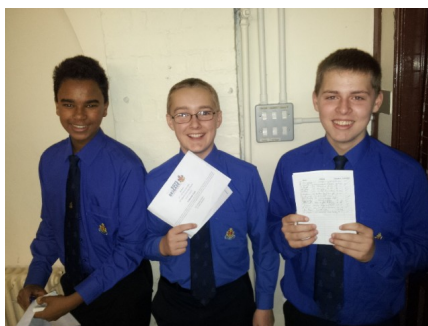


We would like to thank everyone who supported the Company's fund raising efforts during BB Week. We really do appreciate your generosity both financially and prayerfully.

Our Coffee Morning on 22nd November was a success with a great atmosphere. It was great to see so many friends there, particularly some of our Old Boys.

Our best wishes for Christmas and 2015.

BB Coffee Morning



BB Week Collectors

The following article should have appeared in the October Magazine but was mislaid in the production line. My apologies to the men's fellowship in general and Bill Maclean in particular. Ed.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Dawn Raid on Newhaven Fort!

Well it was 11.00 am, not quite dawn, but early enough for most of the small but well matured group who paid a “surprise” visit to Newhaven Fort on a sunny Saturday morning at the end of August.

Leaving two of our number to guard our transportation (!!) the others, led by our very own “Captain Mainwaring,” descended down the steep slope to the entrance and negotiated admission to the Fort, i.e. we qualified for the “group” admission rate and (surprisingly) were not required to produce evidence of age! Once inside the Fort we took the opportunity to ‘gird our loins’ for the main assault on the Fort by sitting down (always a popular decision) to watch a short film portraying its history through a number of wars and threats to our coastline. Following this, encouraged by a lone bugler, we split up and explored various aspect of the Fort to gain a better understanding of the important part it – and others like it – played in defending our shores. We agreed its defences were unlikely to be troubled by a group of elderly invaders from Central URC and we could have done with more time to explore further but “Captain Mainwaring” called for us to ‘fall back’ and we retreated to the safe haven of *The Hope*, where a full de-brief took place to the accompaniment of an enjoyable lunch.

I leave you to work out who played the part of Captain Mainwaring – despite his attempted anonymity by hiding behind the camera!

WLM Sept 2014

- **What do reindeer say before telling you a joke?**
- *This one will sleigh you!*

Central United Reformed Church

Presents

THE ROCK CHOIR

In Concert

Saturday 13th December, 7.30 pm

Tickets £5 from Keren Hancox

(Tel: 01273 881348)



TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP

We would love to see you at any of our meetings in the New Year.

In January we have two interesting talks:

6th Willow Harmony with Ann Bennett

20th Off the Fence's work with Paul Young.

We meet on alternate Tuesdays at 2.30 p.m.

Happy Christmas



CAROL SINGING IN GEORGE STREET

Our annual carol singing in George Street this year will take place on **Saturday 13th December at 11.00 am** and it would be good to have as many as possible taking part. It has been great fun over the years and the public seems to enjoy it.

So please meet in the church hall at 10.50 am where we can pick up the carol sheets. Look forward to seeing you, as this is a great form of Outreach.

Adrian

CAROL SINGING AT HOVE STATION

Our friends in Hove Methodist Church have invited us to join them in singing carols at Hove Railway Station from **6.30 p.m.** on **Thursday 18th December.**

For thirty years they have been collecting money in this way in aid of Action for Children (formerly National Children's Homes). They would be delighted if you would come along and proclaim "Joy to the World!"



- Which of Santa's reindeers has bad manners?
- *Rude-olph!*

CHURCH CALENDAR

DECEMBER

SUN 7	SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT GIFTS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE <i>In aid of Brighton & Hove City Mission</i> Family Service – Holy Communion 10.30 am Rev. John du Bois Evening Worship – Christmas Junction 6.30 pm
Sat 13	Carol Singing in George Street 11.00 am Rock Choir Concert 7.30 pm
SUN 14	THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT Back to Church Sunday – Bring a friend Family Service 10.30 am Baptism of Melody Correen Leeks, daughter of Andrew & Kirsty Rev. Peter Elliott Evening Worship 6.30 pm Rev. Roger Wood – John the Baptist
Mon 15	Bluebird Nativity 10.00 am
Tue 16	Bluebird Nativity 10.00 am
Thu 18	Carol Singing with Hove Methodist Church 6.30 pm At Hove Railway Station In aid of Action for Children
SUN 21	FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT Family Service – Nativity 10.30 am S.Y.M. Carols by Candlelight 6.30 pm Light refreshments afterwards
Wed 24	CHRISTMAS EVE Holy Communion 11.30 pm Rev Peter Elliott

Thu 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

Family Service
Rev Roger Wood

10.30 am

SUN 28

Family Service
Rev Roger Wood
No Evening Service

10.30 am



FLOWER ROTA FOR DECEMBER

7th Welcome Break

14th Keren Hancox

21st} Christmas Flowers

28th} Christmas Flowers

- *Your donations towards the cost of Christmas Flowers should be given to Rosemary Brice by Sunday 14th December and would be most welcome as would gifts of evergreen foliage such as holly, ivy or conifer which could be left in the flower room by Wednesday 17th..*
- *Keren Hancox will be happy to receive donations towards the cost of the outside Christmas trees.*

JANUARY 2015

HAPPY NEW YEAR

SUN 4	Family Service – Holy Communion Rev Roger Wood Evening Worship – Junction	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Tue 6	Tuesday Fellowship – Willow Harmony Ann Bennett	2.30 pm
SUN 11	Family Service Rev Peter Elliott Evening Worship Rev Lynda Hulcoop	10.30 pm 6.30 pm
Wed 14	Elders' Meeting	7.30 pm
SUN 18	WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 18-25 JANUARY Family Service Rev. Jenny Morgan Church Meeting Evening Worship Rev. Roger Wood	10.30 am 12 noon 6.30 pm
Tue 20	Tuesday Fellowship – Off The Fence Paul Young	2.30 pm
Wed 21	Men's Fellowship New Year Party	7.45 pm
SUN 25	Family Service – Parade Rev Roger Wood Evening Service – Holy Communion Rev Peter Elliott	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Mon 26	Christian Book Club – Four Letters of Love (Pam Moody)	8.00 pm

The **FEBRUARY** edition of the magazine must be handed in no later than **SUNDAY 18th JANUARY.** Please inform **Mr Bill Maclean** by Wednesday of the preceding week of any calendar changes so that the calendar on the Order of Service may be altered.

FLOWER ROTA FOR JANUARY

- 4th Jan Owen – in memory of Bill
11th Jim & Sheila Lyall – in memory of their parents
18th Dr Sheila Purchase
25th June Whittle – in memory of Ray



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2015

COFFEE MORNINGS

14 th February	Social Activities
7 th March	Cake Stall
12 th September	Social Activities
17 th October	Tuesday Fellowship
21 st November	Boys' Brigade

SUPPERS

25 th April	Spring Supper
26 th September	Harvest Supper

FAIRS

6 th June	Summer Fair
5 th December 14	Christmas Fair

CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB

Perhaps, after reading “The Christian Atheist”, anything might seem lighter – even a book of the Bible. Perhaps that is why we relapsed into some of the bad habits of the early years of the Book Club: one of us had read the wrong chapters and another hadn’t read any! Nevertheless, it was a highly enjoyable evening, if somewhat light hearted.

We can, of course, blame our Interim Moderator, Jenny Morgan, for it was she who set us on the path of discovering Proverbs, having used five of them for discussion during our Harvest Thanksgiving Service in September. During the service, Jenny had invited us to discuss briefly the aptness of five proverbs for today’s world. With the time constraints of a service we felt we should examine these more closely and also read Chapters 10-15 of the book itself.

We managed to whittle Jenny’s choice down to three : Proverbs 14: 21; Proverbs 16: 11 and Proverbs 28; 11. We felt these were particularly pertinent to today’s world and political situations.

Then we turned to the Book of Proverbs. We all found verses which intrigued us, amused us, slightly bewildered us and at times, confused us. One minute it seemed that God was condemning the rich: the next the poor were being chastised. Peter Elliott explained to us that Proverbs is part of the Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament, which also includes Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes and Psalms. Although some of it is attributed to Solomon, around 700 BC, some of it comes from Egyptian proverbs as far back as 5000 BC. It is a sort of in-gathering of wise sayings from all over the Middle East over centuries.

There are proverbs for and about all kinds of people, all kinds of relationships and generally they attempt to teach how to behave or how not to behave towards others.

We had great fun with some and indeed some provoked laughter as we tried to narrow down our favourites.

Chapter 10 verse 26: Never get a lazy man to do something for you. He will be as irritating as vinegar on your teeth or smoke in your eyes.

Chapter 18 verse 22: He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favour with the Lord.

Chapter 21 verses 9 & 19 redress the balance. It is better to live in a desert land than with a contentious and fretful woman.

Chapter 15 verse 20: A wise son makes a glad father but a foolish man despises his mother.

Chapter 16 verses 1-3: politicians and promises pay attention!

There are so many which made us smile, for example, the one where a nagging wife is likened to a dripping tap and we also enjoyed the various ways a proverb could be expressed by comparing what was written in our different translations of our Bibles. It does somewhat pain me to admit that the Good News Bible came into its own, when dealing with this Book.

One thought as we go into a New Year: Proverbs 16 verse 9.

Our next meeting will be in Pam Moody's home, on 26th January at 8.00 p.m. when the book of choice is "Four Letters of Love" by Niall Williams.

If you cannot make that meeting, then perhaps you would like to join us at Chip Dunn's on 23rd February to discuss the Book of Ruth.



The J Team

THANKS

Dear Friends,

I would like to say thank you for all the support I have been given after my recent operation.

The prayers, cards, flowers, phone calls and visits are very much appreciated and keep up the spirits.

I improve each day and hope to be back among you by the time you read this.

With love and good wishes,

Sheila Lyall



Christmas Baubles

Thank you to all the members of the church who have put baubles for the Christmas Tree in the box.

It has been like Christmas already, just finding something different each week.

I am sorry that some of you have tried very hard, without success, to purchase white ones but I really appreciate the thought and time that you have given to helping me in this way.

Hilary Ball



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN CENTRAL?

Girls' Club—Pudsey Cake Sale

In aid of Children in Need



Onesies Rock!



- What do reindeer hang on their Christmas Trees?
- *Horn-aments!*

Visit to Zimbabwe September 11th to 24th 2014.

In last month's magazine we gave an account of Lynda Hulcoop and a team from Southwick Christian Community Church's to Kuwadzana. This is , as promised, a further insight into the activities undertaken.

- 1. IT Room:** Whilst courses were on and during some afternoons Gavin sometimes helped by Becky, spent time with Robert getting the desk top computers virus free and functioning well and helping set up the laptops we had brought from the UK purchased from Computers for Africa. By the end of our stay, the computer room had undergone major transformation
- 2. School Teaching:** Some mornings (quite early!) Jess was invited to teach both O level and A level classes in Maths, English and Religious Knowledge which was a wonderful preparatory experience for her moving on to teaching in Thailand next year. This was greeted very favourably by both the staff and the students and served to give us closer relationships with the school. Jess and others also spent time in the afternoon with the students doing some tutoring, chatting, doing loom bands etc.
- 3. Football and Netball Training and matches:** On 3 afternoons Jordan led some of the school boys in football training on he local public football pitch preparing them for a match against the church football team. Jess also did netball sessions for the girls. The matches took place on Saturday afternoon in the grounds of a local primary school. The school netball team won well and the football match refereed by Stephen with all players wearing Brighton and Hove Albion donated football kit ended in a 3-3 draw.
- 4. Practical repair and building work:** Bill and Stephen helped by Nyasha and Amos and others undertook a range of practical activities, the major one being putting guttering round the new school building. Without this the building remains illegal. They also did electrical repairs, filling holes in the floor and some glazing work.
- 5. Visit to Women's Association:** One afternoon Jess, Becky, Jeannie, Helen, Linda and Lynda participated in the Women's Association meeting at the church. This included singing, dancing and prayer ministry.

6. **Visits to local homes:** One afternoon Granville, Linda, Helen and Jess did some home visits taking food parcels and ministering in prayer. This proved to be a real eye opener seeing how people live in Kuwadzana high density suburb. Another afternoon the whole group accompanied by some staff member walked around the township. On route we stopped at the home of a former Bible School student where a mourning gathering was going on after the death of the student's mother. We sang and prayed which was very well received.
7. **Sunday School:** On the two Sundays the entire group helped at the Sunday School in sessions led by Bill presenting the theme of creation. Approx 80 to 100 children of all ages attended and entered fully into the craft activities we had prepared. We then did a presentation in the church with the children singing and participating.
8. **Sunday Services:** On each of the two Sundays we participated in services at a fairly full Kuwadzana Presbyterian Church. We sang, did Bible readings and both Lynda and Granville preached. After the services we were hosted for lunch first by the church Elders who gave us formal greetings and sung and second by Jonah's family.
9. **Prayer ministry:** After both Sunday services and at other times Granville, Linda, Helen, Becky , Jeannie and Lynda undertook healing prayer ministry with a lot of people who came forward to be prayed with. This included young people wanting prayer for their studies and parents bringing their children for a blessing.
10. **Youth Gathering:** On one Sunday, Jordan and Jess went to a joint youth gathering in Kuwadzana.
11. **School Assembly:** We participated in one school lunchtime assembly led by Jess where we did a drama and sang. This was followed by different groups of students singing, individual students giving speeches and reading poems and a dancing group. It also included the singing of the Zimbabwean national anthem!
12. **Visit to Special School:** One morning some of us went on a visit to a special school for disabled children. This is the school attended by Moses Aaron, the son of Doris who is a church member and a Bible School student. We help sponsor his school

fees so it was a good opportunity to see how such a school functions.

- 13. Clothing packs:** During our stay, we packed up 165 bags of children's clothes that we had brought with us. These will be distributed to needy families during the course of the year.
- 14. English meal for Staff:** On our final evening we hosted all the staff and their families to an English meal. We cooked and served soup, cottage pie & vegetables followed by apple crumble and trifle. 34 people attended and we had a lovely time of fellowship accompanied by singing and thank you. This was a major task as the electricity was off and the facilities for mass catering rather limited.
- 15. Free time visits:** We had some free time when we went to Cuiaba Shire bird park on Lake Chimera, Wild is Life animal sanctuary, Mize Game Park and Avondale market. Thus we were able to see some of the African bush and wildlife.

Lynda Hulcoop

PCNI Director September 2014

BB BLIND EVENING - BLIND SMELLING



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

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

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 he 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:

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BLIND TASTING



CENTRAL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HOVE

Corner of Ventnor Villas and Blatchington Road, Hove

Church Hall Telephone: 01273 734162

www.centralurchove.com

MINISTER

Rev. Roger Wood

(Day off: Thursday)

CHURCH SECRETARY

Mrs K. Hancox

TREASURER

Mr. C. Hill

COVENANT & FREEWILL OFFERING SECRETARY

Refer: Secretary/Treasurer

ORGANIST & CHOIR MASTER

Dr. A. Ireland

BUILDING HALL(S) HIRE

Mrs Celia Elliott

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Mrs. R. Brice

SUNDAY SERVICES

10.30 a.m.

MORNING WORSHIP

with Youth and Children's Ministry

6.30 p.m.

EVENING WORSHIP

HOLY COMMUNION

First Sunday of the month at 10.30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of the month at 6.30 p.m.