



150 Years of Worship and Outreach

Central United Reformed Church Hove



February 2015

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 H Brown
<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,

I have asked various people in our churches recently what they think about TBN UK. You might say ‘what on earth is TBN UK?’ - Which is pretty much what they said!

Let me enlighten you: - TBN UK is a Christian TV channel on Freeview, channel 65, which started broadcasting on January 5th and features a variety of programming for about 18 hours a day. You may be aware that there are other Christian TV channels, such as God TV and UCB TV (United Christian Broadcasters), but these are on SKY packages that you have to pay for.

So what’s TBN UK like? It’s very varied and features Bible teachers, inspirational speakers, evangelists, documentaries (I recently watched a programme about the Welsh Revival, which was very interesting), Christian music (youth orientated), discussion programmes, interviews, children’s programmes, drama etc. Admittedly it tends to be very American, but there is also British, Australian and Canadian input. TBN UK comes from America’s TBN (Trinity Broadcasting Network), and “has prepared new state of the art studios in Willesden, London, and is able to finance the huge monthly bill of £750,000 required for its Freeview channel” (as reported in the *Heart of Sussex* Christian newspaper). The network is aware that it might be seen as being too American, and it is therefore making the effort to adapt to the British culture and lifestyle.

Do I recommend it? Broadly speaking, yes I do. You are not going to like everything, but you may like, and be challenged by, some things - and you may learn quite a lot from the Bible teaching. Give it a try - see what you think. In my opinion this could be greatly used by God in communicating to Christians, but also reaching those outside the church, and resulting in some, perhaps many, coming to faith. This could be a great opportunity for the Church to have a strong presence and influence in a world of TV and entertainment that is sometimes unsavoury, and where there is a lot of rubbish and mediocrity. Good Christian broadcasting could help to turn the spiritual and moral tide in our nation.

I would be very interested to know what you think. Happy viewing!

Roger

Same-sex Marriage

The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church in Cardiff last year was unable to reach a decision on which all agreed regarding conducting same-sex marriages in our churches. The matter has therefore been referred back to local congregations with a request to:-

“discuss whether they would wish a future meeting of Assembly to authorise local church Meetings to offer same-sex marriages and to report their views to the General Secretary by 31 March 2015”

To facilitate this a Pastorate meeting has been arranged and will take place at **Hounsom Memorial Church on Saturday 7th February 2015 at 2.30pm**. A facilitator, Rev. Amanda Harper of Herne Hill URC and Dulwich Christ Church has been provided by Southern Synod to chair the meeting.

All members are encouraged to attend in order that the decision we will make at Church Meeting on 15th February truly reflects the views of the majority of our members.

PASTORATE MEETING

2.30 p.m.

Saturday, 7th February 2015

At

HOUNSOM U.R.C

(No. 5a bus)

Facilitator : Rev Amanda Harper

(Herne Hill United Church)

“Do you wish a future meeting of Assembly to authorise local church meetings to offer same-sex marriage services?”

FAMILY NEWS FROM CENTRAL

Jenny Morgan told us at the beginning of her sermon that she loved Christmas so much that for her the Christmas season did not end at Epiphany, 6th January but she tried to extend it until Candlemas.

Some of our organisations, namely the **Men's Fellowship** and the **Boys' Brigade**, also seem to think that this is a good idea and they celebrated both Christmas and the New Year by holding their celebratory parties in January! Both were hugely enjoyed by all who attended and the noise levels at each were about the same. It does not seem to matter if you are six or sixty when it comes to winning the game!!! While the BB were slightly messier in their choice of games, the Men's Fellowship were every bit as competitive and woe betide the person who dared to pass a parcel after the music stopped! Every finger in the room pointed out the error of her ways. The fun, the fellowship, the laughter and the teasing were common to both.

Carols by Candlelight saw a full church and the whole service drew many favourable comments from everyone, particularly visitors, who do not usually attend Central. The music and the choir came in for particularly favourable mention. If you did not manage to attend you can watch and hear the entire service on line by going to our website and following instructions. It really is worthwhile.

A new innovation is that you can also hear the morning service by going to the church website (www.centralurchove.com) John Brewster and Chris Hill have arranged this for certain services, so, if you are ill, you need not miss out.

Through all the beauty, awe and happiness of the Christmas season there are those who suffer the loss of loved ones. **Charlie Steel** and **Molly Fraser** both lost siblings- a brother and sister, respectively, - in the weeks preceding Christmas. In January, **Pam Moody's** brother, **Keith**, died. Keith had been a member of our Boys' Brigade Company in his youth and maintained an interest in the Company over the years. To Pam, Charlie and Molly, we extend our sincere sympathy and loving prayers for comfort.

There has been a nasty bug about over the past few months and some have succumbed to it but we have been very concerned about the health of two of our oldest members. **Jan Owen** and **Dick Dench** have both been in hospital for quite long spells. However, we are delighted to learn

that both are now back in their own homes. We pray that their health will continue to improve and that we might see them worshipping with us once more.

More good news comes in the announcement of the birth of a baby. She just missed Christmas but **Mary Teggart's** granddaughter, **Hally Mae Freeman**, was born, weighing 8lb 4ozs, on 29th December to **Norma and Neil**, in Hong Kong. We are delighted to hear that baby and parents are well and are looking forward to seeing the photographs after her proud grandparents have visited her. May God bless and keep this new little family and may Hally Mae flourish and bring happiness and blessing to her whole family circle.

We would like to congratulate **Ros Ayling** on being presented with an award from the Steadfast Association in recognition of 50 years service, covering Glynde Camp, to the Boys' Brigade on Sunday 18th January.

And yet another Big Birthday! On 14th February, forget about St. Valentine and instead wish **Jill Humphrey** a very happy 80th Birthday! Congratulations and best wishes to her for a very happy birthday and every blessing in the years to come.

We mentioned **Sheila Lovey's** health in the December magazine and were so pleased that she felt well enough to sing in the choir over Christmas. She is now undergoing a course of radiotherapy and is doing so with great cheerfulness and a very positive attitude. We pray that the treatment will be successful and that she will be strengthened by our prayerful concern.

Clive Hamblin has had a bad fall and has broken the bones in his upper arm. He is now appreciating how useful his right arm was! He is finding ordinary tasks quite difficult and frustrating. We pray that his arm will continue to mend and Clive will no longer be out-of-sorts.

On Thursday 26th February, **Michael Maine**, who has been such a good friend to Central over the years, will be installed in his own parish in Cuckfield. Please hold Michael in your prayers, particularly on that day but also over the coming days as he settles to his new calling. We pray that God will richly bless Michael and his parishioners as he begins this new life of service with them.

Please remember in prayer our dear friends:

The Elliott and Marteau families, Tebello Sibanda, Peggy McMillan, Shirley Hamblin, Barbara Woolvett and John Gilson.

We would also ask you to hold in prayer the decisions to be made over the next two months at Church Meetings, the Eldership and the ministry of the church. Central is YOUR church and each of us, under God's guidance, has a part to play.

Thank you

We would like to thank everyone who gave so generously to our two Christmas appeals. £500 was sent to Zimbabwe via Paraclete and £400 was raised by the Christmas Card for the work of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

ROS AYLING'S AWARD

On Sunday 18th January, at the Steadfast Association's (BB Old Boys) service and meeting, Ros Ayling was presented with an award for her years of service to The Boys' Brigade by the Deputy Lord Mayor of Brighton & Hove.

Good to see her looking so well!



TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP

We have just had our first meeting of the New Year, which was, as always most enjoyable. It was “Willow Harmony”, a singing foursome who gave us an hour of much loved songs, with which we could join in singing.

We would love to welcome some more members to join us in enjoying our interesting and varied programme and having time together.

We meet on alternate Tuesday afternoons.

Sec. Charlie Steel



CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB

A blazing fire, good friends, a book we had enjoyed reading at leisure, a sharing of the pleasure it had given to each - what a lovely way to start the New Year!

Space forbids going into details but “Four Letters of Love” is a book we recommend and which has already give enjoyment to others, who do not come to Book Club.

Next meeting is Monday 23rd February. The Book of Ruth from the Old Testament is our book of choice. Feel free to join us!

HOVE CHURCHES LENT STUDY COURSE

Hove's Churches Lent Course of study will be based around the book "Praise Him."

This year there will be no house groups but instead three sessions per week will be on offer at Hove Methodist Church, Portland Road. It is hoped that many people from the various churches will be able to find at least one of the meeting times convenient; Monday evening, Wednesday afternoon or Friday morning.

Hove Methodist Church is happy to host and lead all these sessions and warmly invite everyone from all local churches to join us.

		Lent 1	Lent 2	Lent 3	Lent 4	Lent 5
Monday	19.30 21.30	Feb 23	Mar 2	Mar 9	Mar 16	Mar 23
Wednesday	14.30 16.30	Feb 25	Mar 4	Mar 11	Mar 18	Mar 25
Friday	10.00 12.00	Feb 27	Mar 6	Mar 13	Mar 20	Mar 27



Flower Rota for February

- 1st & 8th are available to anyone who would like to contribute
- 15th Kathy Dalley
- 22nd Girls' Club

CHURCH CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

SUN 1	Family Service – Holy Communion Bob Jackson The Junction	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Tue 3	Tuesday Fellowship – Trevor Weeks The Wildlife Trust	2.30 pm
Sat 7	Coffee Morning – Social Activities Committee Pastorate Meeting at Hounsom Same Sex Marriage Facilitation Meeting Rev Amanda Harper	10.00 am 2.30 pm
SUN 8	Family Service Rev. Peter Elliott Evening Worship Rev Peter Elliott	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Wed 11	Pastorate Joint Elders’ Meeting At Central	7.30 pm
SUN 15	Family Service Mrs Stella Goddard Church Meeting Evening Worship Rev. Roger Wood	10.30 am Noon 6.30 pm
Tue 17	Tuesday Fellowship – Joan Hopkins Choir	2.30 pm
Wed 18	Men’s Fellowship – Bible Study	7.45 pm
SUN 22	Family Service Rev Roger Wood Evening Worship – Holy Communion Rev. Lynda Hulcoop	10.30 am 6.30 pm

Mon 23	Lent Study Course begins Hove Methodist Church Christian Book Club - Ruth (Chip Dunn)	7.30 pm 8.00 pm
Wed 25	Lent Study Course begins Hove Methodist Church	2.30 pm
Fri 27	Lent Study Course begins Hove Methodist Church	10.00 am

MARCH

SUN 1	Family Service – Holy Communion Rev Roger Wood The Junction	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Mon 2	Lent Study Course – Week 2 Hove Methodist Church	7.30 pm
Tue 3	Tuesday Fellowship – Rosemary Brice Women’s World Day of Prayer	2.30 pm
Wed 4	Lent Study Course – Week 2 Hove Methodist Church	2.30 pm
Fri 6	Lent Study Course – Week 2 Hove Methodist Church Women’s World Day of Prayer Service Bishop Hannington Church Nevill Avenue	10.00 am 10.30 am
Sat 7	Coffee Morning – Cake Stall	10.00 am

All contributions for the **MARCH** edition of the magazine must be handed in no later than **SUNDAY 15th FEBRUARY.**

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.

HALL CHAIRS

*Please do **NOT** stack chairs higher than 8 per stack. Any larger number negates the insurance and we will not be covered if there is an accident.*

Only stack chairs 8 or less.

‘SPEAK, LORD, FOR YOUR SERVANT IS LISTENING’

[The following is an extract from the sermon preached on 18th January, from 1 Samuel, Chapter 3, vv 1-10, and the Gospel according to John, Chapter 1 vv 43-51.]

We considered three common threads woven through these readings:

1. **Call:** *the boy Samuel hears God calling him by name, although at first Samuel does not realise that it is God, and thinks it is the priest, Eli. Philip and Nathanael also hear the call of Jesus: ‘Follow me’, although Nathanael is at first sceptical.*

2. **Light:** the whole of John’s gospel is infused with light. Jesus is ‘the light of the world’, people who were blind are enlightened, they can see, and they become visionaries. Philip invites Nathanael to ‘Come and see’ Jesus. And when he does, Nathanael sees, he understands deep in his soul, that Jesus is more than a teacher. Jesus is indeed the Son of God, King of Israel. The shrine at Shiloh is a gloomy place, Eli’s sight is fading, and the only remaining glimmer of light is in the shrine itself, where the child Samuel is serving. This was a time when ‘visions were not widespread’. The people were spiritually blind and the light of faith had almost been extinguished.

3. **Dislocation from God:** in the world around them, and in religious life. Samuel was born into the time of the Judges – a time of anarchy; ‘all the people did what was right in their own eyes’ (Judges 21:25), and Jesus was born into a country that was occupied by a brutal and exploitative regime. The religious powers, too, had become corrupt and exploitative. The people were drained spiritually and economically by both the priestly and the political powers.

In a time of dislocation, the light shines, and God’s call is heard by a faithful few.

Epiphany gives us the time to ask ourselves, ‘So what?’ ‘What difference does the light of Jesus make to this church, and to each person here who has already answered the call to acknowledge Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, and to be a member of the body of Christ, the church?’ We all know that God’s call is a call, not to faith apart from life, but to an active faith. To a life of discipleship – life long learning and following in the way of Jesus.

On that evening in the shrine at Shiloh God called Samuel by name three times before Samuel realised that it was God who was calling him, and only on the fourth occasion was Samuel able to respond with the words ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening’. And Nathanael failed to believe Philip when he told him that Jesus was the Messiah. It took a face-to-face encounter with Jesus for Nathanael finally to know who Jesus was, to lose his spiritual blindness, and change from sceptic to visionary.

God’s call is not always easy to recognise. We often need other people to help us, to prepare the ground, as Eli and Philip did for Samuel and Nathanael.

We are approaching that time in the rhythm of church life when we seek to discern who it is that God might be calling to service in the church in the role of Elder. We have a great team of experienced Elders, so why change? Because if we were never to change our existing Elders, we would be failing in our duty to encourage the gifts, the talents, and the discipleship of the whole body of Christ. Our Elders can encourage and develop the talents of future Elders, and it would be wrong of us to fail to let them do this.

Not every member has the gifts for Eldership, but every member has a duty to consider (maybe with the help of the church directory so no-one is overlooked) who it is that God might be calling to Eldership. At the risk of stating the obvious, it is only from church members here at Central, those around us in this church, that the Central Elders can be elected. And only Central members can nominate potential Central Elders, and encourage them to offer this form of service, to follow this path of discipleship.

What if **you** are asked to accept nomination for election to the Eldership? Maybe, like Samuel, you have heard that call from God three, or even more times, and have not recognised it. Or said, over and over again, ‘No, not me’. Maybe, like Nathanael, you have been approached just the once, and have shrugged the whole thing off, somewhat sceptically.

And maybe you think you don’t have all the skills and gifts needed. Well, don’t worry, none of us has every gift of Eldership! But within the Eldership a diversity of gifts enables us to do together that for which God calls us. And remember the old saying: ‘Those whom God calls, God equips’. Part of your discipleship might be learning and developing your own gifts of Eldership.

Jesus loves us, and knows each one of us by name. Jesus calls each one

of us to faith, and to discipleship. Discipleship requires us to listen to God, to respond to God's call, and to learn from one another, to support one another in new forms of service, of discipleship. Even if that is risky, even if we feel vulnerable and uncertain about it, we can be assured that Jesus knows what we are capable of, and he will equip us by his Holy Spirit.

Jesus is the light of the world and Epiphany gives us time to pause and ask ourselves: 'As the light of Jesus is shining on and through me,

what difference does that make?' 'What is my response to the light of Christ in me?' 'What is God calling me to do, as a disciple of Jesus Christ, who calls me by name?'

One thing we can be sure of – Jesus is **not** calling us to do nothing!

Jenny Morgan

Called to be an Elder?

Your Church needs you! Ask not what your Church can do for you but ask what you can do for your Church! Phrases 'borrowed' from well known quotes, probably over-used but somehow appropriate!

Central's 'serving' Elders have been supported during the past year by a number of 'non-serving' Elders. The good news is that all have said that they are willing to continue but they recognise that this is not a long term solution and would welcome the infusion of 'new blood'!

Our Annual General Meeting next month provides the opportunity to elect new Elders and **Nomination/Consent** forms related to this are now available. Nominations can be submitted by any Church Member but require the consent of the nominee and should be seconded. If you are approached by a fellow member who would like to put your name forward please give the matter serious and prayerful consideration. Many hands make light work and there are many ways in which an Elder can play an active part in the running of our Church! Please speak to the Minister or any Elder if you require any more information.

Completed **Nomination/Consent** forms should be returned to the Church Secretary by Sunday 1st March.

“Your Method of Giving – How about by Standing Order ?

We are issuing the little blue ‘Free Will Offering’ (FWO) envelopes for 2015 to those who currently use these for their regular giving.

However, I would like to encourage those who do pay by this scheme, and indeed anyone who currently doesn’t give via a regular payment method, that setting up a standing order as an alternative is a very efficient way of making your offertory. There is no scrabbling around for cash each week, and you almost don’t need to think about it, except to review the amount occasionally !

We have a good number of people already using this method, so please do let me know if you would like to do that and I can let you have a standing order form. If you are on-line then you can set it up directly that way, the church bank details are:

Sort code	20-12-75
Account number	80249750

Please just make sure your name is in the ‘Reference’ for our records, and I would then follow up subsequently to check if we can also claim gift aid on your giving.

If you would prefer to join the Blue FWO envelope scheme then please ask me or Carol Tyler and that can be arranged.

Outreach Jars

On a separate, but related note, the number of **Outreach Jars**, which Alasdair Macaulay kindly administers, has been declining recently. I would commend these to you, they are a very useful additional income which we direct at outreach activities. Currently these tend to be for publicity purposes and include the posters and banners you see outside the church – the fact that these are changed frequently and publicise different events are evidence of a church community which is alive and active, and so are essential for outreach, attracting people’s attention and to encourage them to come in....it is not uncommon to see people stop in the street to look at the notice-boards and banners, I have even seen people take photos ! The Outreach Jars are a key source of funding that

initiative so please do keep them going. If your's has lapsed, or you like a new one, please see Alasdair who will be happy to help !

Many thanks indeed for your generous, ongoing and essential giving, without which we would be unable to operate as we do.”

Chris Hill

Treasurer



**Friday
6th March
Women's
World Day
of Prayer**

All are welcome



Praying for The Bahamas

**BISHOP HANNINGTON CHURCH
NEVILL AVENUE
10.30 a.m.
FRIDAY 6TH MARCH
(Take No. 5a bus right to the door!)**

www.wwdp.org.uk Registered Charity Number 233242



7th January 2015

Dear Pam and all those at the Central United Reformed Church Hove

Thank you so much for choosing to support JDRF this year through your large Christmas card greeting scheme and for your lovely donation of £400.

One of the challenges of our work is that, from the outside, type 1 diabetes does not look serious and, for those who don't live with it from day to day, the impact is hidden. Few realise the dedication it takes to keep blood glucose levels as stable as possible or why it is necessary to do so.

All donations received by JDRF help support our work to cure, treat and prevent type 1 diabetes and, while we continue to search for the cure, we also work to improve life for people with type 1 diabetes today by seeking increased government investment in research and improved access to the best technological and pharmaceutical solutions for managing type 1.

We couldn't do any of this without the assistance of our wonderful supporters so thank you again for helping us to continue with this vital work.

With best wishes

Sue Perrin
Regional Fundraising Co-ordinator
sperrin@jdrf.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2015

REVISED EDITION

Coffee Mornings

7 th February	Social Activities
7 th March	Cake Stall
19 th September	Social Activities
17 th October	Tuesday Fellowship & Boookstall
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

- ***Please note this is a revised and amended version to that published in December's magazine. These dates are now correct at the time of going to print.***

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 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:

Photocopied By Permission. MRL Licence No 806540

No further action required for photocopying !

MISSED CHURCH?

You can listen to the Sunday Morning Service by going to our website: www.centralurchove.com and hearing the recording.

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