

150 Years of Worship and Outreach

Central United Reformed Church Hove



Psalm 150

July 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

MISSED CHURCH?

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

AN ELDER SPEAKS.

Dear Friends,

Jesus said, “This is what the Kingdom of God is like...a man scatters seed upon the ground...night and day the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how.” Mark 4;26

There comes a time in all our lives when we feel we are near the end of our tether. Teachers can certainly experience this, especially last period on a Friday afternoon! One particular Friday, Helen Mroska abandoned her lesson plan, gave each student a blank sheet of paper, and told them to write something nice about each person in the class – that took care of the rest of the period!

The next day, Saturday, Helen compiled a list for each student of what others in the class had liked about them. On Monday she gave each student a paper with what their classmates had written. The atmosphere in the class changed instantly. One student whispered, “I never knew I meant anything to anybody!” The students were happy with themselves and with one another...and that was it... until...some years later, the class was brought together again by the death of one of their number in Vietnam. After the funeral, the parents approached Helen, and showed her a crumpled piece of paper. It was found in their son’s breast pocket after he was killed in battle. She was amazed as another former student told her that she kept her list in the top drawer of her desk at home. Still another classmate took out her purse and showed her worn and frazzled list to the group, and said she carried it with her everywhere she went. Helen was simply overwhelmed.

Whoever would have thought that what a teacher did out of desperation on a Friday afternoon would have such a lasting effect on her students. You never know? You never know how something you or I might do might affect someone else. The funny thing is that we may not even think that what we did was all that important, but to another person it made a world of difference. Jesus taught us that the Kingdom of God is like that. Are there some tiny seeds that you and I could be planting? Some word of love? Some act of encouragement? “The Kingdom of God is like seed scattered on the ground.” Have we some seed that we could scatter today?

Peter Elliott



One and a half years ago, we started Hope, a charitable organisation, set up to support and encourage family and community life.

We are working with mothers who feel isolated and lack confidence (Sparkle groups), lead sensory play sessions (Playtime), run a community group (The Sanctuary), aimed to support the whole family, as well as supporting individuals and their families through difficult situations (Family Matters)

It is always humbling to hear the difference Hope's work is making to individuals.

One of our Sparkle ladies has recently let us know what the group has meant to her. Read her story below. X

“I moved to xxxx with my family in 2006 and have since been through a traumatic divorce. I found myself becoming very isolated and dreaded even going to the shops. Joining a Sparkle group has given me the chance to meet others living here, share experiences, and also to do things with others that I would never had done on my own. This has most definitely, week by week, transformed my wellbeing quite literally! Now when I walk down the road I feel so much more a part of the community. I am regaining my confidence and even find myself randomly weeping but for the joy of just being. With the help and support that the group has shared and given me it has meant, for me personally, that I feel like life has been given back to me if that makes sense. Thank you.”

It is exciting to be seeing fruits coming from the work that has been laid out for us to do.

We are expecting to expand the work of Hope in the next few months so, to make this easier to plan, we are looking to receive some regular monthly income that will add to the monies our fundraising and grant applications bring in.

Please read our “Hope For 52” leaflet and consider being one of the first 50 people to support us with a donation of just £1 a week. Your commitment of such a small amount will support us to truly give hope to mothers, fathers and families.

With love and thanks for your consideration, *Ian and Naomi McBain*

FAMILY NEWS FROM CENTRAL

Well, she has made it! **Kate Maclean** has recovered sufficiently from her hip operation to come back to church and worship with us and also to attend the U3A concert last Saturday. It is so good to have her back amongst us, although both she and Bill missed the Men's Fellowship Skittles Evening but enough is enough.

The Skittles Evening was its usual noisy, fun-filled self and enjoyed by all. One of the great things about it is no-one has to do anything, except turn up, eat up and throw the ball down. No cooking, No tables to be put up/taken down, No washing/tidying up. A real opportunity to chat with friends. Adrian Ball's report may be found elsewhere in the magazine. Our thanks to Jim Lyall, who organised it so well.

The new initiative of holding a concert by the U3A Singing Group was another success story. A beautiful Saturday Evening – would anyone turn up? They did and church funds are the better by over £200. Thank you everyone, especially Muriel Harte and Victoria Hancox.

Ruth Scott has now moved into The Crescent Home on the Drive. We pray that she will soon settle in and be happy in her new surroundings.

Unfortunately, **Willi Ghoshal** was knocked down by a cyclist, as she made her way to church last Sunday evening. She was kept in hospital overnight and is now home, very bruised and sore. We pray that she will soon recover from her injuries and that we can welcome her back amongst us soon.

It's a boy! **Sheila and Jim Friend** have new grandson, **Louie George**, who weighed in at 9lbs 10ozs. Another great-grandchild for **Jan Owen**. We wish every blessing on Louie, his brother Jimmie and their parents.

The young people of the church are to be congratulated and thanked for the wonderfully happy Praise Service they led on the last Sunday of June for the Junior Church Festival. It was very uplifting and as bright as the summer weather.

On 4th July, **Kathy Dalley** will have celebrated her 98th birthday. We hope it was a happy one for her and send our best wishes to her for the coming year.

Fellowship of Prayer:

Tebello Sibanda, Peggy McMillen, Clive and Shirley Hamblin, John Gilson, Ros Ayling Jan Owen, Muriel Lewis & Ivy Newell.

Men's Fellowship at The Royal Oak

A great evening was had by 23 members and guests of the Men's Fellowship at their Skittles night on Wednesday 17th June ably organised by Jim and Sheila.

We each drew a card to split us into the four teams of either Hearts, Spades, Diamonds or Clubs, Pam was waving a Union Jack to encourage her team then started the Bowling . Some of the competitors bowled with great gusto, others thinking they were Barnes Wallis bounced the balls down the alley;

It was all very competitive, the fellowship was great and much encouragement was given to those who scored highly all vying for the coveted silver trophy, only interrupted by the excellent food of beef stew, cottage pie, fish cakes, veggie sausages, new potato, carrots and greens followed by apple pie and cream.

The second half saw the diamonds establish a healthy lead and they eventually come out as the winners with Chris holding the cup on high to rapturous applause. A fun evening thanks to the friendly banter and competitive spirit.

Thanks must go to the members for allowing others to join them in this event. May we come again please?

AdrianBall



THE JUNCTION

As always you are never quite sure what is going to happen at "The Junction", but on Sunday evening, 7th June it was interesting, challenging and fun. On arrival there was not only the usual coffee or tea but also pieces of fruit with a chocolate fountain (all part of the theme). We had a new member of the "J" team join us in the form of the Rev Andy Lowe, the Minister of Hove Methodist Church, Portland Road and he, together with Suzanne, had us racking our brains to decide where and when vegetables were mentioned in the Bible.

We then had "Gears Years" and Peter told us all about Leigh Abbey on the beautiful North Devon coast. It is a Christian Community of around 90 people of 19 nationalities. It is so much more than a retreat centre. They offer Bible weeks, workshops and themed breaks, or you can go just as a holiday.

The person being interviewed this month was our own hardworking, Keren Hancox. Keren told us how she had become (fortunately for us) a Home Economist working for some interesting firms but now of course arranging and preparing many meals for us here at Central. Her family name was Spong of the mincer variety and that brought her on to her Great Grandfather Rev Ambrose Spong who was Minister at Central from 1863 - 1903. His daughter Winifred Scott was Church Secretary and the first lady Deacon, and her son Anthony Scott was Church Secretary for 26 years so Keren felt that it was inevitable that she would one day fill that position. She was able to show us a beautiful travelling communion set, which belonged to her great Grandfather and said that one of her most precious moments was when she was accepted to be able to administer the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

After listening to a song called 'Eat the Word' by The World Wide Message Tribe, Andy spoke to us about the importance of food in our lives. By sharing meals we share our love for one another and he gave us each half a piece of pitta bread to give to other people in the room to say "Thank you" or to say how they had affected our lives, as God had affected ours. This was followed by the wine symbolising the Blood of Christ.

We finished with a prayer and Suzanne closed the service. *Hilary Ball*



And now Gearbox's input:

Well - they did it again - the J Team put together an excellent act of worship last evening. For the first time it was presented by Andy Lowe, the Minister of Hove Methodist Church, ably assisted by Suzanne with the technical side being covered by John and Chris. We also welcomed many friends from the Methodist Church hopefully being the first of many evenings being shared. The theme was "Food & Fellowship" and was portrayed by scripture passages, videos and songs. Keren Hancox was interviewed and even I, having known her for many years, learnt things about her life previously unknown. The worship concluded with all taking Communion. This was done in an unusual way with friends offering the bread to one another with a short message of friendship whilst circulating around the room giving the bread to many. We then returned to our tables and all took the wine together, giving thanks to the Lord. A wonderful experience and once again, well done everyone and God Bless. *Peter Gear*

SOUTHERN SYNOD

29th June 2015

Dear friend and colleague,

As you will know, following the consultation process on same-sex marriage, the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church met for a recalled one-day Assembly on Saturday 27th June.

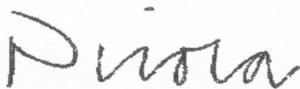
The substantive resolution before General Assembly stated that it was not appropriate for the denomination to express a single view on the issue of same-sex marriage and that the proper place for an individual United Reformed Church congregation to decide whether it wished to host marriages of same-sex couples should lie with its church meeting. Those churches who do not wish to offer marriage services to same-sex couples are not compelled to do so.

After discussion, in which a wide variety of views were shared, the resolution was then passed with a small number dissenting.

The resolution will now be referred back to the 13 synods for a nine-month period of further consultation which will end on 31 March 2016.

My reason for writing to you is that I am well aware of the diverging views within Southern Synod on the issue of same-sex marriage and that whilst some churches, and individuals, will welcome the decision, others will be distressed by it. I therefore, wanted to make the offer, sincerely and in good faith, that, if anyone, wishes to speak with me on any of the issues that might affect them to please contact me so that we may talk together.

With Christian greetings,



Synod Moderator The Revd Nicola Furley-Smith

Tel: 02086883730

E-mail: moderator@urcsouthern.org.uk

CHURCH CALENDAR

JULY

SUN 5	Family Service – Holy Communion Rev Darryl Sinclair	10.30 am
	Evening Worship – The Junction	6.30 pm.
Wed 8	Elders’ Meeting	7.30 pm
SUN 12	Family Service Rev Peter Elliott	10.30 am
	Evening Worship Rev. Lynda Hulcoop	6.30 pm
Wed 15	Men’s Fellowship – Treasure Hunt (contact Graham Smith)	6.45 pm
SUN 19	Family Service Ian Fletcher (Bible Society)	10.30 am
	Church Meeting	12 noon
	Evening Worship T.B.A.	6.30 pm
SUN 26	Family Service Geoff Harrington	10.30 am
	Evening Worship – Holy Communion Rev Peter Elliott	6.30 pm
Mon 29	Christian Book Club “And the Mountains echoed” (Pam Moody)	8.00 pm

AUGUST

SUN 2	Family Service - Holy Communion Rev. Andy Lowe	10.30 am
	Evening Service – The Junction	7.00 pm

N.B. The halls will **NOT** be available from 27th July until 5th September because of the work of refurbishing the toilets. If your visit is essential, please enter through front door in Ventnor Villas.

All contributions for the AUGUST– September edition of the magazine must be handed in no later than **SUNDAY 19th JULY.**

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 July

- 5th Mr Peter Gear – in memory of his mother
Mrs J. Gurden – in memory of her mother, Mrs York
- 12th Joyce Magill – in memory of Joan Skittrall
- 19th Rev. Peter & Mrs Celia Elliott – in memory of Thierry & Kevin
- 26th Ann Austen – in memory of Keith

Letter from Jenny Morgan, our Interim Moderator

Dear Friends

Rejoicing all round! The Hove & Portslade pastorate is now on the vacancy list, and the summary pastorate profile is on-line for all to see along with the profiles from other URCs which are seeking ministers. It has been a long process with a lot of hard work for many people, so it is right that we give a big ‘thank you’ to all who have been involved in meetings, discussions, and providing information. Well done to you all. I know there has been a lot of frustration along the way, but I hope also that we have come to a better understanding of ourselves as a pastorate, and our role in God’s mission in our communities as a result.

So now we start a new phase in the life of the pastorate, as we await news of prospective ministers who would like to meet us. I know that all the churches in the pastorate have past experience of vacancies, and have come to realise just how much is the faith, and many are the gifts, that we share. Faith and gifts that stand the pastorate in good stead during the vacancy and beyond.

But the intensive process of reflection that we have been through is only a part of our continued reflection on the life and witness of the church of Jesus Christ in this place. We continue to reflect on our life, with the aim of deepening our faith, and being more welcoming to those who are seeking to know more of Jesus.

If we are going away during the summer months we have an additional opportunity to reflect on the life of the pastorate. Do you, like me, enjoy visiting other churches when you are away from home? At the Synod Area meeting, Revd David Skitt mentioned the support that we receive from one another. And small churches in holiday locations often find the visits of holiday makers, bringing greetings from their home congregations, a source of strength and support. And we too can learn much from them. How did they welcome you? Was it just one ‘official welcomer’, or did you get the sense of a church where this is a shared responsibility and welcome is at the heart of that church? How does their worship differ from ours, and what forms of outreach are they involved in? Things that are not appropriate for us, because our contexts are so different, or things that we had never thought of, but which could be just what we’re looking for?

I hope and pray that the process of reflection we have been engaged in will

become embedded in the life of the pastorate, so that we are always seeking to do the best we can for the sake of Jesus Christ, and his kingdom on earth.

Yours in Christ

Jenny

LET EVERYTHING THAT HAS BREATH PRAISE THE LORD!

P Psalms

R Rejoice

A Alleluia

I Immanuel

S Sing

E Eternal Life

By now you will have gathered that the theme chosen by the members of the Sunday Youth Ministry, who led our worship on Sunday 28th June, for the Junior Church Festival was “Praise!” And that is exactly what we had – a Praise Service, with lots of singing and music as well as Bible Readings and prayers. A service in which the congregation entered into the spirit of praise and thanksgiving and left uplifted and smiling.

All the words printed above were explored and were integral parts of the service. So, the *psalms* were used as readings and as songs; everyone *rejoiced* in being together, worshipping in freedom and in witnessing the confidence and faith of the young people as they led the service; we had a short rendition of the (H)*alleluia* Chorus, as part of Psalm 150; Jesus *Immanuel* is always with us; the singing was great and once again we were assured of the promise of *eternal life* in the readings John 3:16 and 1 John 5: 11-15.

We may not have the quantity of young people that we would wish but we certainly have the quality. From the moment Josh Mabbs issued the Call to Worship, loudly and confidently, every young person exuded the same

confidence and clarity as they did their part. An abiding picture is of young Megan Jukes sitting at her drums in front of the entire congregation totally at ease, participating in the service until her moment came.

“O Make a joyful noise unto the Lord” and this we did as Issy Mabbs read Psalm 150 and the instrumentalists joined in at the appropriate verse – quite a feat on a hot sunny Sunday – and then the congregation had to join in too with whatever instrument was near them. Noise was a very apt word.

If you are one of those who does not like “noisy” services be assured, this one was well balanced and had its quiet moments for prayer, meditation and introspection. The video “10,000 reasons to bless the Lord” was one such time. While the final hymn, “I’ll go in the strength of the Lord” was a positive contrast to the Benediction, sung to the tune Eidelweiss.

*May our God, God of peace,
Bless and keep you forever;
Grant you peace, perfect peace,
Perfect in every endeavour.
So go forth in joy and love,
And in peace forever
May our God, God of peace,
Bless and keep you forever.*



Kayleigh Jukes on drums.

Around the World in Song

Singing we are told is good for you. It improves your lungs and breathing capacity. It counters stress and helps you relax. It is a way to make friends. It is fun and it spreads happiness. All of which proved to be true on Saturday 27th June when the U3A Singing Group sang us around the world.

It was a lovely summer evening and the audience was wonderful. Friends, relatives and, most importantly, grandchildren, and church members gathered together to support the singers and be entertained. By the end of the evening they had well and truly been that and were delighted and proud with the result.

The songs were well known ones, which were sometimes reminiscent of the ones learned at school singing lessons long ago. All were sung with evident joy by the singers.

First there was a quick trip around the British Isles with songs from every country of the U.K. This was followed more gently by a selection of songs, which were quintessentially English – Linden Lea, An English Country Garden, others about a Blacksmith and a shepherd.

Then the jet plane took off as we were whisked in song to Italy, Spain, Russia, Israel, USA, South Africa, the Caribbean and Australia. (I'm sure you can guess what that song was!) Finally we returned to Sussex to stand and sing the Sussex County Anthem.

Twice during the evening the mood changed as Victoria Hancox took centre stage to transport us to another realm with her immense talent on her flute. One minute her fingers flew along her flute to a very lively tune and the next, the music slowed to become beautifully slow and mellow. Her third piece drew a whoop of joy from the audience as she finished and each time the applause grew louder. We are very grateful to Victoria for once again, sharing her music with us.

We also owe an immense debt of gratitude to the members of the U3A "Choir" for giving us such a widely varied programme of song and sharing the pleasure they get from singing with us. Their smiles said it all. In particular, we are so grateful to their leader, Muriel Harte, for all the work and preparation she had made in organising the programme. A nonagenarian, she is just amazing both in her energy and musicality.

She is living proof of why singing is good for you!

CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB

Never take anything for granted! Especially your knowledge of the Bible. We all got rather a shock when we read the Book of Daniel. We had thought: Shadrach, Meschach, Abednego – fiery furnace; Daniel and the lions’ den. Nebuchadnezzar bad; the others good. WRONG.

So we had to start again. The Book of Daniel is far more complicated than we had first thought. Parts of it are very visionary and there are strong elements reminiscent of the Book of Revelations to it.

First mistake was to think it was written in the 6th century BC, which was when the Jews were in exile in Babylon and the book records events from that time. Scholars think that it was in fact written about 165BC when Antiochus Epiphanes IV was ruling and oppressing the Jews more harshly than Nebuchadnezzar ever did.

Antiochus was Greek, so the Babylonians were the innocent party. He also was responsible for erecting an idol of Zeus in the Temple in Jerusalem. The vocabulary and style of Aramaic in the narrative are not 6th century BC but more modern.

Another big shock was to learn that the Book of Daniel is a work of fiction. None of it ever happened. Daniel did not exist. Nowhere is there a recording or reference in either civilisation’s records of a Daniel. There is a Dan-El mentioned but not in any way relevant to the story or time relevant to this book.

Daniel is the author and the name is a nom de plume. He wrote this story to encourage the Jews who were undergoing persecution to keep their faith and God would be with them. It’s message is as relevant today to those undergoing death, imprisonment, torture and injustice because of their faith, whether they are Jews or Christians. This is why it is included in both Jewish and Christian sacred literature. (Do you realise that Christians are being persecuted for their faith in over 52 countries today?)

One final piece of interest was discovering that the story of Daniel covers not only the reign of Nebuchadnezzar but two other kings as well – up to Cyrus – covering 70 years in all.

As you can imagine, it was a very interesting and enjoyable evening in which we learned where some familiar sayings originated –“the writing is on the wall” & “feet of clay” etc.

We took a mischievous delight in learning that the great god/idol of the

modern world - the internet – is not infallible and got it as wrong as we did!! It treats the story as fact.

BUT we know a man, who knows a man, and they both know THE MAN.

On Monday 27th July, we will hold our final meeting before the summer break at Pam Moody's home, 8.00 pm . The book under discussion will be "And the Mountains echoed" by Khaled Hosseini.

Please feel free to join us; you will be very welcome.

- *Please excuse any misspelling of proper nouns – we have done our best!!*

ST CUTHBERT'S HOUSING ASSOCIATION

The Annual Report 2015

The St Cuthbert's Housing Association (SCHA) is pleased to report on the activity from its 47th year.

Objectives:

The SCHA continues to provide assistance for those with housing needs, in two ways:

1. Primarily through the provision of affordable accommodation by way of four one-bedroom flats at Wray House.
2. Through the dispersal of surplus funds as grants to organisations who work with housing issues and the homeless in the Brighton and Hove area.

Tenancy:

Following some years of consistency with tenants, there have now been a few changes during 2013 and 2014, and at times SCHA has experienced some difficulty in finding appropriate tenants, which has resulted in flats remaining vacant for longer than is ideal.

Maintenance:

SCHA has continued with the programme of major renovation to the flats as each becomes vacant, subject to the availability of funds.

Two flats have been overhauled completely to a good standard, whilst a third has been partially upgraded.

The process of working on an individual flat invariably means that there is no tenant for the duration and rental income is consequently impacted.

Grants:

Due to the ongoing project of major renovation no grants were made to other charities by SCHA in 2014. This will continue to be under review.

The Future of St Cuthbert's Housing Association:

SCHA provides great benefit to the people of Brighton and Hove through both the provision of affordable housing and by financially supporting other local housing projects too.

However SCHA is managed and operated by only a small team of volunteers who, whilst very willing, need to consider the burden of complying with modern legislation facing housing associations and the maintenance of the house.

No decisions have been made to change what is currently in place, but the future of SCHA has become an ongoing matter of discussion for the Committee of Management.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Christian Aid Week collection during May.

Donations of £625.00 were augmented by £500 from Central's Disaster Fund, so a total £1,125 was forwarded from our fellowship to help in the work of bringing justice and relief to deprived and damaged communities.

We pray that it will be well used.

P.M.M.

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(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:

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...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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MEN'S SKITTLES CHAMPIONS—2015



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MINISTER

Vacancy Advused

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.