

150 Years of Worship and Outreach

Central United Reformed Church Hove



May 2016

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.

Dear Friends,

I have thoroughly enjoyed the first two and a half months I have been with you and feel I am getting to know you a little. I love your determination for “reaching out” and have re-looked at your contribution to the pastorate profile to see how we might begin growing the church, together.

The elements of the Vision, which spelled Central, were:

Care Spiritually

Engage in Dialogue

Nurture Spiritual Growth

Teach the words and ways of Jesus

Reach out

Acept our community

Listen reflectively

We need to start on building this vision together and I would like us to begin with prayer and study; which comes under Care and Spiritual Growth. In order to be able to teach the words and ways of Jesus we need to have a good idea about them. Our commitment, as a church family, to prayer and study will have an enormous impact on making the vision a reality. I am asking you to think of times in the week when we could pray together for the life and vision of the church. My idea is that over a month we will have a large group of people meeting to pray; in the church or in one another's homes. This will be the first building block to success.

I would also like to have some study groups in the pastorate. If we could arrange 2 opportunities during a week to meet to study God's word for a block of four weeks, i.e. week commencing 6th June for 4 weeks. We will have a theme and some Bible readings so that you can read them ahead of the sessions.

Please give your names to your elder by 22nd May and we will see what

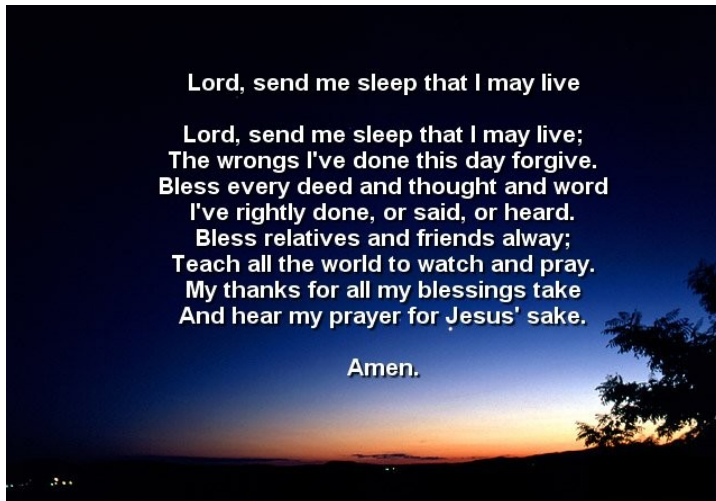
study groups we can arrange. If we find that the church is not available at the time we have planned to meet, then we can meet at the manse. Please consider your response prayerfully. I believe that God is calling us to a greater depth of faith and this is the first step to that enriching relationship.

We will meet every few months, so please don't worry if you can't join the first sessions. There will be other opportunities later in the year. I like to see these opportunities as spiritual exercise, if we are going to make an impact as disciples, we really need to take this seriously. Let us begin to build up our "spiritual muscles".

I look forward to meeting with you in June. Let us face this challenge together and see how God helps and support us.

Your co-worker in Jesus,

Sue X



FAMILY NEWS FROM CENTRAL

April seems to have been the quietest month so far this year. *For* which we should count our blessings.

Ann Beach, Peter Gear, Mary Cochrane have not enjoyed the best of health and caused us some concern but all three are back at church to worship with us on Sunday. We pray that this improvement will continue.

A **Thanksgiving Service** for the life of Vi. Foard will be held in church on Wednesday, 4th May, at 2.00 pm. A short service of committal will have been held at the crematorium at 1.00 pm. It is so appropriate that the Thanksgiving Service should be held on a Wednesday as that was one of the busy days in Vi's life at Central when she attended U3A Choir and then enjoyed lunch at Welcome Break. We hope some of her friends from both will join us.

You can't keep a good man down, especially if he has been a member of "The 10th". We learn that **Dick Dench** has received a gold medal for being the oldest Old Boy of the Battalion when they held their Stedfast Service reunion and AGM. It is also interesting to know that the church magazine is now being syndicated, as an article from it about the Boys' Brigade appeared in the Spring Newsletter of the Stedfast Association! We do like to make our mark.



Rev Dr John C. Neal, Battalion Chaplain presents Dick Dench with his Gold Medal

One piece of good news: our minister, **Rev. Sue** became a grandmother

again on 22nd April when her daughter-in-law gave birth to a baby boy. Mother and son are doing well. We pray that he will be a blessing to all his family and he and they will flourish.

The **Spring Supper** was enjoyed by all who attended and, as you can see from the photographs, no one went hungry. Our thanks to everyone who supported the event, in any way, and, by doing so, raised £372 for church funds.

This will help to make our Treasurer smile. **Gift Day's** total, so far, is £3561. If you have not yet contributed and feel able to do so, you can widen Chris's smile by giving in your contribution – it's never too late! Maybe we can hit £4000!

Speaking of giving to good causes, **Christian Aid Week, 15th –21st May**, is fast approaching and we hope that you will feel moved to contribute as generously as possible to improve the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves. The Cakes Coffee and Chat afternoon in aid of Christian aid at Chip Dunn's was very successful and brought back many long-time friends, whom we were delighted to see. Pam Moody's letter below says it all:

Thank you to everyone who supported the Cakes, Coffee and Chat afternoon last month. Guests from under 8 months to (well!) over 80 years enjoyed that chat and gave donations of £210 for the work of Christian Aid.

A gift of £50 from Welcome Break made a grand total of £260.

Many thanks

Pam.

Aside from this we have **Alan Ireland's Organ Concert** on 7th May at 7.00 pm to enjoy. Tickets which include a ploughman's supper are now on sale (contact Keren) or pay at the door.

On **Monday 23rd May 7.00 pm** the Boys' Brigade Company will be holding its Awards Evening when the boys will receive the badges and cups they have gained this year. Everyone is invited and we hope that a good attendance will show our appreciation of and support for the Officers, Staff and Boys of the Company. It is also a good opportunity to discover what they do apart from entertaining us with Music Halls.

There are so many interesting events coming up in June that these are listed separately in the magazine.

Fellowship of Prayer:

Jan Owen, Tebello Sibanda, Peggy McMillen, John Gilson, Ros Ayling, Sally Marteau, Doug and Maureen Lawrence & Ivy Newell.



SPRING SUPPER





10th BRIGHTON (HOVE)
BOYS' BRIGADE
COMPANY

Invite you

To join them for their



AWARDS
EVENING

MONDAY 23RD MAY

7.00 p.m.

Ventnor Hall

MORE GOOD NEWS!

As you may be aware, John Brewster works as a courier for **DHL** and, as part of a "Match It Scheme", the DHL UK Foundation have donated £600 to the British Heart Foundation in connection with the money raised from the 10th Brighton (Hove) Boys' Brigade Company's Old Time Music Hall. (See March magazine)

Well done again to all involved. This now takes the total donated to £1421.21.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

15TH – 21ST MAY 2016

Christian Aid has a vision – an end to world poverty. The organisation works globally, challenging the injustices of our world and seeking to achieve equality, dignity and freedom for all. Urgent, practical and effective assistance is provided with the underlying aim of social justice.

This year Christian Aid Week focuses on the work being done in flood prone areas of Bangladesh – demonstrating how its intervention is transforming lives. Jesus taught us to love our neighbours as ourselves and that our neighbour is anyone in need.

Let us give to Christian Aid during its special week, helping it to act on our behalf to support our neighbours in need across the world.

Gift envelopes will be in church on Sundays 8th, 15th and 22nd May. Please come prepared to give and take extra envelopes, if you can use them to collect from your own family, friends and neighbours. These envelopes can then be placed in the church collection bags or on the plate at the back of the church.

P.M.M.



**Dear God,
Bless me with:
Ears that can hear your voice,
A mind that understands your direction,
Eyes that see your vision,
Hands that will do your work,
A mouth that will speak your word,
Arms that will reach out and help,
and feet that will walk by faith.
Amen**

SPONSORSHIP NEEDED

On Sunday, 15th May Kayleigh Jukes is doing a charity walk from the top of Hangleton Way to the Devil's Dyke (some 2.7 miles) to raise money to help repair her school – Eastbrook Primary Academy in Southwick – swimming pool.

Kayleigh and her friend, Millie, will be walking the old Dyke Railway route.

Kayleigh is looking for sponsorship, as the school has a wonderful pool which they currently can't use.

Please sponsor her, if you are able. She will have a sponsorship form next week.

Thank you.



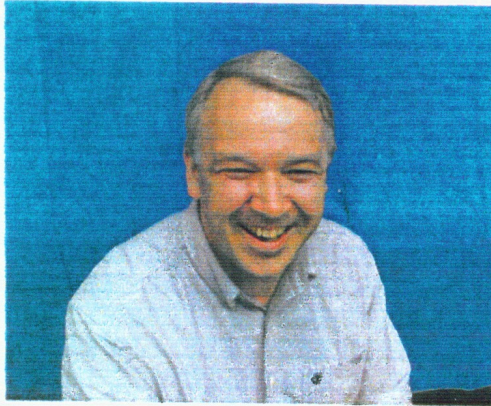
Kayleigh Jukes—to help you recognise her!

**Love every
neighbour**

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 15TH - 21ST MAY

CENTRAL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

ALAN IRELAND IN CONCERT



AN EVENING OF ORGAN MUSIC

SATURDAY 7th MAY

7.00 pm

In

Central United Reformed Church
Ventnor Villas

Tickets £10 (including a ploughman's supper)

Pay at the door or contact Keren Tel 01273 881348

CHURCH CALENDAR

MAY

SUN 1	Family Service Rev. Roger Wood Evening Worship – The Junction Special Guests: Emma, Keren & Rebecca	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Tue 3	Tuesday Fellowship – my Poetry John Harries-Rees	2.30 pm
Wed 4	Thanksgiving Service for the life of Vi Foard	2.00 pm
Sat 7	ALAN IRELAND IN CONCERT	7.00 pm

SUN 8	Family Service – Holy Communion Rev Peter Elliott Evening Worship Rev. Lynda Hulcoop	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Wed 11	Elders' Meeting	7.30 pm

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

SUN 15	PENTECOST Family Service Bob Jackson Evening Worship Rev Sue Chapman	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Tue 17	Tuesday Fellowship Bring and Buy	2.30 pm
Wed 18	Men's Fellowship Skittles Evening – Royal Oak, Barcombe	7.00 pm

SUN 22	Family Service - Parade Rev Sue Chapman Church Meeting Evening Worship – Holy Communion Rev Peter Elliott	10.30 am Noon 6.30 pm
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Mon 23	Boys' Brigade Awards Evening Ventnor Hall	7.00 pm
SUN 29	Family Service Emma, Keren, Rebecca - Zimbabwe Evening Worship Rev. Sue Chapman	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Tue 31	Tuesday Fellowship – Charity for Africa Rose	2.30 pm

JUNE

SUN 5	Family Service Stella Goddard Evening Worship – The Junction	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Mon 6	Christian Book Club – Playreading “ A Midsummer Night's Dream” (Clare Popley)	8.00 pm

All contributions for the **JUNE** edition of the magazine should be handed in no later than **SUNDAY 22nd MAY**

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 BOX FOR MAY

1 st	Available
8 th	In memory of Beryl
15 th	Doreen Fookes – in memory of her husband Doreen Page – in memory of Coreen
22 nd	Available
29 th	Chip Dunn

CENTRAL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HOVE

SUMMER FAIR

SATURDAY 11TH JUNE

10.00 am - 1.00 pm

Morning Coffee

Light lunches

Bric-a-brac

Grocery

Books

Cakes

Cards

Toiletries

Jewellery

& MORE

ALL WELCOME

CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB

Two for the price of one! We had two meetings in April and the contrast between the two books we discussed could hardly be more marked. It is perhaps evidence of the variety and diversity of the books we read in the book club.

Monday 4th April the book to be reviewed was “The Other Side of the Dale” by Gervaise Finn, who aside from being an author was also a school inspector and advisor in English and Drama, having been a teacher himself. This is of course in the days before OFSTED and box ticking, when teachers were allowed to teach and engage with their pupils. (Wrong word choice there and not pc.!)

Set in the hills and dales of Yorkshire, most of the schools he visited were small and the teachers were well aware of the children’s background and local knowledge. What struck most of us was the fact that the Inspector was positively welcomed into the schools he visited, instead of the staff being stressed and almost having breakdowns at the idea of an inspection being in the offing. The teachers were proud of their pupils and their achievements and eager to show them to visitors. The children too were natural and honest in their conversations, showing a remarkable insight into their own abilities and limitations.

But most of all, this book demonstrated the joy of learning and teaching when teachers and children are allowed to get on with it.

The book is beautifully written and a pleasure to read. Gervaise Finn’s evident enjoyment of his job, and his empathy with both teachers and pupils is crystal clear. There are also beautiful descriptions of the Yorkshire countryside and cameo word portraits of the people. There is laughter, pathos and the merest hint of romance. The closing poem says it all, giving the lie to politicians’ interference and promises of “raising standards” by frequent examinations and OFSTED inspections.

Is your glass half-full or half-empty?

If, at the beginning of the month, our glass was almost full by the time we had read “Ecclesiastes” for the second time it was almost drained. You may remember that we undertook this task because, having read “Song of Songs” this book was given as a contrast to it. Well, they got that right!

Strangely, some of the words of “Ecclesiastes” are more familiar to us and more frequently used in sermons than those of “Song of Songs.” In the preparation notes with which Peter Elliott had kindly furnished us, it says,

“Of no book in the Bible is it more true that people have tended to read into it what they want to hear and to get out of it what agrees with their own prejudices and convictions.” Thus we have the contrast of St Jerome advocating abstinence and an ascetic life as the way to God, based on Ecclesiastes; and Martin Luther saying it “teaches us to use with grateful hearts the things present and the creatures which are bountifully bestowed upon us by God without anxiety about future temporal blessings.” Ch 8 v15. Ch 2. 24.

So take your pick! Does this book Have “the smell of the tomb” or is it about “ the joy of life”?

It begins “Vanity of Vanities, all is vanity” and continues to say that life is an endless cycle of boredom which, basically, only ends when we die. There is no difference between men and beasts “ All go to one place: all are of dust and all turn to dust again.” Ch 3. V4.

There are moments of beautiful poetry as in Ch.3 1-8 but then usually we stop and fail to read verses 9 & 10. At lots of parade services various preachers have encouraged the young people to, “Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth. Ch 12 v 1 and then ignored the second part of the verse. As Chip Dunn pointed out, no one gives a sermon on the subsequent verses 2-8. However, if you were ever in BB, Scouts, GB or Girls Guides and sat around a campfire there is one campfire song two lines of which just about sum up “The Preacher’s” philosophy:

*“Your eyes fall in, your teeth fall out,
The worms, they wriggle in and out!”*

“The Preacher” is the guru whose words make up this book and whose harshness and cynicism, even shocked his students, who tried to avoid trouble with the authorities by softening his words at the end. However, this rich, autocratic individual (and it is not Solomon as is sometimes supposed because this book’s language suggests this is written about 600 years later) shows no sense of identity with the poor or of championing the cause of the victim’s of social change, unlike other prophets and writers in the Old Testament.

Peter Elliott, kindly suggested it was because “The Preacher” did not have the hope brought by Jesus but, personally, he sounds more like one of the chattering classes!

On to lighter matters! There are too many Bank Holidays in May so, we have decided to have our next meeting on 6th June. And we are going to

celebrate the Bard's birthday, by having a play reading of part of "A Midsummer's Night's Dream" - long donkey ears and all!

The venue: (Clare Popley's home.)

The time: 8.00 pm.

We would be happy to see you, if you would like to join us.

INVITATION

Queen Elizabeth's 90th Birthday Celebration Lunch

At Hounsom URC.

Sunday 12th June at 1.00 pm

This is a date for your diary!

Sunday 12th June will be a special day for the nation as the whole weekend will be a celebration of our sovereign's official birthday.

At Hounsom we intend to hold a special celebration lunch following the morning service.

Lunch will be at 1.00 pm so that our friends from Central and Portslade can easily come after their services.

This is a ticket - based event with tickets £5 for adults and £2 for children.

There is musical entertainment booked.

We promise: a delicious lunch and a fun time of fellowship.

Proceeds will be donated to the R.N.L.I

Contact Nigel Ireland: 0794 327 3069 OR Keren Hancox 01273 881348 to book your tickets by the end of May.



MORSHEDA'S STORY

Morsheda is a young mother of four living in Bangladesh. She has no land, few assets and no savings.

For Morsheda's family living on low-lying islands in the Brahmaputra River, floods are a terrifying part of everyday life. Morsheda can't even count on having a safe place to call home: the single-room, corrugated-iron house she shares with her children has been flooded four times.

'I feel very scared of the river. When I look at it I keep thinking "it is coming".'

Dangers all around

One year, her humble house filled up to her knees with floodwater. To stay dry, and keep away from the dangerous snakes that now swam through her home she raised her bed up on bricks. But during the night she was woken by a loud splash. In the pitch black, her baby son had fallen into the inky water. He could have drowned in moments.

Race against time

In a bad year, huge waves crashed against her house, giving her less than an hour to uproot her home and scramble to safety. Racing against time, she gathered her terrified children together and hastily made a raft from a banana tree.

At any moment, it could have tipped and plunged them into the swirling waters, but it was their only hope. She put her youngest daughter in a cooking pot and clung to it as it floated in the current.

'My children were so scared. My sister was holding them very tightly and we were panicking because my neighbour's child was washed away.'

The floods are coming

Morsheda and her children live a precarious life. They know that the floods will come again, and soon. But we can lift our neighbours like Morsheda to safety.

Just €340/£250 is enough for a Christian Aid Home Safety Package. It could flood-proof Morsheda's home, raising it eight foot on an earth plinth, so that she has a safe place to rebuild, keep livestock and grow crops. It could also buy a goat, seeds and a wormery to help produce compost – all of which will give her a long-term income and a solid

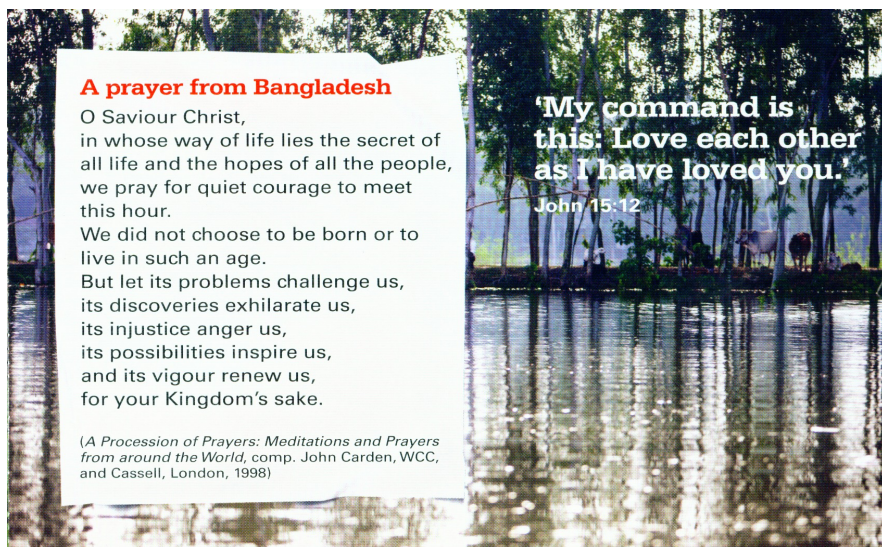
foundation for a new life.

‘If I could raise my house then I would feel much safer living here with my children.’

Whether you host a Big Brekkie, hold a church collection or collect house-to-house, your actions this Christian Aid Week could change the life of our global neighbours like Morsheda.

Join us in the week we love every neighbour.

Thank you.



www.artatstgeorges.org.uk



Art at St George's

SUNDAY 15 MAY, 1 - 5pm

St George's Church, Court Farm Road, Hove BN3 7QR

Admission free



The Arundel & Brighton Diocesan Trust is Registered Charity No. 252878.



Painter John Armstrong and woodcarver Balavendra Elias will be on hand to speak about their work and to answer questions.

Come and take a look!

**BRIGHTON
FRINGE**

FELLOWSHIP OUTING

TUESDAY 21st JUNE 2016

The outing this year starts with a visit to Squires Nursery where we will stay for about one hour, time for coffee and a good look round. We will then ride through the West Sussex countryside via Storrington and Amberley to Arundel where we will visit the castle.

There is a lot to see in the castle and the gardens are beautiful. I have been on a visit to the castle to see how easy it is to get around: there are buggies to take those who cannot walk up the slope from the front gate to the actual castle entrance and there is a lift to take you to the first floor. There is a further lift to take you to the second floor and when you wish to visit the gardens the buggies will take you there and bring you back to the front gate, so I am sure you will all enjoy the day. Just a little patience is needed when waiting for the lifts and the buggies.

We will return to Hounsom for a cream tea, and Angela and Trevor will take anyone home from Hounsom after the tea.

The cost is £20.00 but you will need to purchase morning coffee and lunch. The castle has a varied menu or you can bring a packed lunch.

Please contact Angela Bacon on 01273 551926 or Jean at Portslade or Helen Brown at Central if you wish to go.

Leaving Central Church at 9.20

Leaving Hounsom Church at 9.30

Leaving Portslade Church at 9.45

Arriving back at Hounsom Church for tea at 4.30

Angela Bacon

RESULT! Christian Aid does make a difference.

Feroza lived in fear of the floods that continually destroyed her home. But then Christian Aid helped her rebuild on a raised plinth, safely out of reach of future floods.

Now Feroza keeps cows, goats and chickens, grows vegetables and can start saving to move to the mainland, where her future would be brighter.

Too many of our global neighbours go without the basics of life: food and shelter. We're working for an end to this injustice, and our voices are never louder than during Christian Aid Week.

As climate change worsens, Bangladesh has become an 'impact hotspot', where heatwaves and extreme rainfall are increasingly common. Flooding remains a serious threat to Feroza's neighbours. Add your voice to those of thousands of other Christian Aid supporters to demand action on climate change.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN JUNE

11th June	SUMMER FAIR at Central
12th June	Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration Lunch at Hounsom 1.00 pm
18th June	Joint Pastorate Churches Day Out 10.00 am - 3.00 pm
21st June	Fellowships Outing to Arundel

More details in next month's magazine.

CENTRAL'S COPYRIGHT LICENCES

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

- (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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No further action required for photocopying

CENTRAL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HOVE

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Church Hall Telephone: 01273 734162

www.centralurchove.com

MINISTER

Rev. Sue Chapman

CHURCH SECRETARY

Mrs K. Hancox

TREASURER

Mr. C. Hill

COVENANT & FREEWILL OFFERING SECRETARY

Refer: Secretary/Treasurer

ORGANIST & CHOIR MASTER

Vacant

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.