

Central United Reformed Church Hove



December 2016 - January 2017

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Sunday Youth Ministry Mrs. A. Austen

Mrs C. Vaughan

Boys' Brigade Mr. C. Jukes

(Mondays)

Girls' Club Mrs. S. Hill

(Tuesday)

Tuesday Fellowship Mrs H Brown

(Alternate Tuesdays)

Men's Fellowship Mr. P. Gear

(Third Wednesday)

Welcome Break Mrs. P. Macaulay

(Wednesdays)

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,

Advent Greetings to you and yours.

The tree has been beautifully decorated; the first advent candle has been lit and we mark the fast approaching season of Christmas. But let's not be in too much of a hurry to count the days to the Big Day! Advent is a time of waiting and watching to see what God is doing among us and around us. We need to keep our eyes and hearts open to make sure we don't miss God's message of Joy, Peace, Faith, Hope and Love in the run up to Christmas; because we are too busy with preparations we might miss God's coming among us. It could be on any day and at any time: in a conversation with a friend; in the voice of a child in a nativity play; in the wise words of an older person; or advice from a stranger. God comes to us every day to light up our lives and bring us closer to the love which is life changing and life affirming.

Often, at Christmas, we look around to see who needs help and support. We choose our Charities and we think about those who are at most need or could do with some cheering up or just recognition that they are alive and surviving. If you have an Advent Calendar or Candle which helps you mark the days to Christmas Day, why not take a moment to think of friends from far or near and remind yourself of good times shared. In your prayers remember the work of the many charities which reach out and support people at this precious time. Our Lord Jesus is interested in every one of those organisations and the people who are served and uplifted by a card, a gift, a conversation, a party, human to human contact which makes life worth living. We are grateful to God for the privilege of being able to share "the Greatest Story Ever Told" with everyone. May you have the opportunity to share the story of Jesus' birth and God's transforming love. We know what impact a small baby can have on a family!

May God bless to you and your family this Christmas and New Year. May you know the presence of the gift of Jesus and know the blessing of God's love in your hearts.

Love

Sue X

CHRISTMAS GIVING - OFF THE FENCE

May I draw attention to "Off the Fence" one of the charities Central has supported over the years and one which does a tremendous job helping individuals who would be otherwise sleeping on the streets of Brighton & Hove.

Some may well use "Welcome Break" to get a meal at a very reasonable price.

Winter time is no doubt the hardest time of the year for these individuals as the cold wet and windy weather approaches. Can I ask that you seek any clean spare warm clothing in the form of hats, gloves, scarves, sweaters, overcoats & socks and place them in the container on the church landing. Toiletries in the form of underarm deodorant spray is also very welcome.

I will be happy to take this to the HQ of "Off the Fence" in Portland Road. Thank you so much, it will be much appreciated.

Adrian Ball

FAMILY NEWS FROM CENTRAL

Christmas time is a period of mixed emotions as along with all the joy anticipation and excitement there are mixed emotions when we remember loved ones who are no longer with us. One such family will be **Sally Banfield's**, to whom we offer our love, prayers and sympathy upon the death of her mother. We pray that Sally and her family may find comfort, peace, light and hope in the coming days.

At the other end of the spectrum of life and death we were delighted to learn that **Doreen Fookes** has become a great-grandmother with the birth of **Florence** to Matt and Sarah on 5th November.. We pray for every blessing on this new addition to the family and that she may be a source of joy to all.

Doreen's great friend, **Doreen Page**, will have extra cause for celebration, even, before Christmas. On 15th December, Doreen will join the octogenarians' club when she has her Big O birthday. A very Happy Birthday, Doreen, and we hope that someone makes a big, beautiful cake for **you** on this special occasion, as you have made so many to mark special occasions in Central.

One of her cakes, along with a garden container of cyclamen and winter pansies, was presented to **Jim and Sheila Lyall** at the morning service on 20th November, to mark their Diamond Wedding Anniversary and as a way of expressing not only our congratulations but also thanks for all the service they have given to the church for so many years. The cake was cut and quickly consumed by all at the after-service coffee.



Congratulations also to **Peter Gear** on achieving 75 years of service in and for the BB Company. This was marked by a special surprise party,

hosted by the Company. And it really was a surprise. Peter's face was a picture when he walked into the New Hall and saw not only the present members but also a large number of Old Boys waiting to greet him.

The second Sunday of Advent, 4th December, will boost spirits as we have the pleasure of welcoming **Colin Chapman** into membership of Central, we are delighted to do so and pray that he will find friendship, faith, comfort and strength as he joins our fellowship.

Good news on the health front. Celia Elliott has had her heart operation and is now recovering at home. Although tired, she is in good spirits and Peter is making sure she obeys orders and rests. Pam Macaulay is back at Welcome Break and got a great reception from her "regulars" who are delighted to have her back. Ann Beach and Sheila Lyall have both had successful cataract operations, so should enjoy the Christmas lights. Molly Fraser is back at church although her back is better her breathing still tires her. Adrian and Hilary Ball's grandson, Joe, is making progress and is allowed some solid food. He is allowed back to school, albeit on a limited timetable but he is "getting there". Tebello Sibanda's new medicine is affording her some relief and she is able to move around her flat more easily.

We are very pleased to learn that **Roy Eaves'** wife, **Angela**, has got the "all clear" after her battle with breast cancer. We hope that she continues to enjoy good health and that she and Ray have a smooth and happy move to their new house when they leave Hove for Peacehaven on 13th December. We wish both of them many happy and healthy years to settle in and enjoy their new home. (For their new address see Church Directory)

We thank God for the improvement in the health of all these friends and pray that they will continue to feel His strength and Healing power.

Fellowship of Prayer:

Tebello Sibanda, Peggy McMillen, John Gilson, Ros Ayling, Sally Marteau, Dorothy Gale & Ivy Newell.



10TH BRIGHTON(HOVE) BOYS' BRIGADE COMPANY



On 17th October the Company held a special celebratory sausage and chips evening to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Peter Gear's enrolment in the Tenth

In 1941 an eight years old Peter was enrolled into the Lifeboy section under the leadership of Bert Frampton. In 1945 when he was 12 he joined the Company Section and remained there until he was discharged in 1951 as a Staff–Sergeant. During this time he "wore out" three different Captains: Bob Skinner, Jack Skandon and Harry Stone; although strangely each saw fit to promote Peter through the ranks. After his discharge Peter took battalion exams to become a Warrant Officer and eventually a Lieutenant.

Peter talks fondly of his time in the Company's bagpipe and drum band in which he literally banged the big bass drum and of camps at Glynde. The first one he went to in 1946 cost £1-2s-6d.



Peter says being in the Boys' Brigade taught him discipline, gave him lifelong good friends, and introduced him to the Christian faith without which he might have ended up on the wrong side of the law instead of becoming a policeman.

To the Company's delight we were able to contact many Old Boys who came along with their wives and joined us for our supper. They kept the secret and Peter knew nothing about the surprise that awaited him in the New Hall until he walked through the door. He thought he was just helping escort the Juniors and Anchors to their tables.

The noise was tremendous, the atmosphere great and the look on Peter's face was priceless!

Thank you, Peter, for all the years of service and support you have given to the Tenth.

In November, we marked the beginning of BB Week by holding our Enrolment Service in the sanctuary. Rev. Sue, our Company Chaplain, led the service and we enjoyed the refreshments afterwards, before continuing with our regular programme.

Thank you to those who have supported the Company both by your financial support during BB Week and by your prayers throughout the year. We appreciate both.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New year to you all.

BB WEEK—COFFEE MORNING







CHRISTMAS TREE 2016

Thank you to everyone who has passed on Christmas baubles and little boxes to me. The little boxes have been covered to achieve a different "look" this year.

To me a rainbow is a beautiful sign of HOPE and so this year our tree will be all the colours of the rainbow.

Green - PEACE,

Orange & Yellow - LOVE,

Blue - FAITH,

Red & Pink - JOY,

Indigo & Violet – **HOPE**

HOPE that we WILL have peace in our world, HOPE for the future of our country, HOPE for our city and HOPE for our Church.

Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.

May I wish you all a Happy and Blessed Christmas

Hilary Ball

CHRISTMAS DAY (Lunch) IS DEFINITELY HAPPENING THIS YEAR!

We're glad to tell you that 40+ year **Hove Methodist Church** tradition of providing Christmas Lunch on 25th December for elderly and lonely people will be going ahead as usual this year

Arrangements are progressing for the many tasks needed to make the day a successful and happy one.

Transport - we do need car drivers to bring guests from their homes for lunch and return home afterwards

Guests – we have plenty of places for guests.

If you are able to help with transport or know someone who would like to come to the lunch please let one of the coordinators know

Elin Star: (hmc.hove@gmail.com) (tel:01273324600)

Michael Hill (hill.michael4@sky.com) (01273779432) or

Rachel Richards (rachelrichards942@gmail.com)

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

CHOIR REHEARSALS

Rehearsals have already begun and will continue to take place at 127

Nevill Road. Tel 01273 509912

Parking: please do not park immediately in front of the house double yellow lines mean you may get a parking ticket Waitrose car park is a good place to park, if you can't find a space.

OR – come by bus.

5B bus and get off at the Waitrose stop on Nevill Road.

Rehearsals: please try to attend a minimum of four rehearsals before the day.
Thursday
Monday
Thursday
Tuesday
Thursday
Sunday

December 1st 8.00 pm

December 5th 8.00 pm

December 8th 8.00 pm

December 13th 8.00 pm December 15th 8.00 pm

December 18th 5.00 pm Final rehearsal

6.30 pm Carols by Candlelight Service

Why is The Great British Bake-Off like the Nativity?



Because The Star is in The Yeast

CHURCH CALENDAR

DECEMBER

| SUN 4 | SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT | |
|--------|--|---------------------|
| | Gifts Around the Christmas Tree Family Service Rev. Sue Chapman Evening Worship – The Junction Special Guest: Rev. Heather Leake –Date | 10.30 am 6.30 pm |
| Mon 5 | Christmas Choir Rehearsal | 8.00 pm |
| Tue 6 | Tuesday Fellowship – Rev. Andy Lowe Joint Elders' & Methodist Stewards' Meeting At Central | 2.30 pm 7.30 pm |
| Thu 8 | Christmas Choir Rehearsal | 8.00 pm |
| Fri 9 | Rock Choir Concert | 7.30 pm |
| Sat 10 | Rock Choir Concert | 7.30 pm |
| | | |
| SUN 11 | THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT | |
| | Family Service – Holy Communion Rev. Peter Elliott | 10.30 am |
| | Evening Worship Rev. Lynda Hulcoop | 6.30 pm |
| Mon 12 | Bluebird Nativity & Party | 10.15 am |
| Tue 13 | Bluebird Nativity & Party Christmas Choir Rehearsal | 10.15 am |
| | Christmas Choir Renearsai | 8.00 pm |
| Thu 15 | Christmas Choir Rehearsal | 8.00 pm |
| Fri 16 | Carol Singing with Methodists | 6.00 pm |
| | At Hove Station | |
| Sat 17 | Carol Singing in George St. | 11.00 am |

| SUN 18 | FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT | | |
|--------|---|--------------------------------|--|
| | Nativity Service Christmas Choir Rehearsal Carol by Candlelight Rev. Sue Chapman | 10.30 am 5.00 pm 6.30 pm | |
| Tue 20 | Tuesday Fellowship – Christmas Party | 2.30 pm | |
| Sat 24 | CHRISTMAS EVE | | |
| | Holy Communion Rev. Peter Elliott | 11.30 pm | |
| | | | |

SUN 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

United Service with Methodists At Hove Methodist Church No Evening Service

United Service with Methodists

10.30 am

10.30 am



<u>2017</u>

JANUARY

SUN 1

| | At Central No Evening Service | |
|--------|---|---------------------|
| SUN 8 | Family Service – Holy Communion Rev. Sue Chapman Evening Worship – The Junction | 10.30 am 6.30 pm |
| Mon 9 | Bluebird Parents & Toddlers re-starts BB re-starts | |
| Tue 10 | Bluebird Parents & Toddlers re-starts Tuesday Fellowship – Linda Gale Japan | 2.30 pm |

| Wed 11 | Elders' Meetin g | 7.30 pm |
|--------|--|------------|
| SUN 15 | Family Service Rev. Peter Elliott | 10.30 am |
| | Evening Worship Rev. Sue Chapman | 6.30 pm |
| Wed 18 | Men's Fellowship – New Year Social | 7.30 pm |
| | | |
| SUN 22 | Family Service Rev Jenny Morgan | 10.30 am |
| | Church Meeting | 12.00 noon |
| | Evening Worship – Holy Communion Rev Peter Elliott | 6.30 pm |
| Mon 23 | Christian Book Club – "Nora Webster" (Clare Popley) | 8.00 pm |
| Tue 24 | Tuesday Fellowship – Ken Smith Music | 2.30 pm |
| | | |
| ~~~~ | | |
| SUN 29 | Family Service Rev Sue Chapman | 10.30 am |
| | Evening Worship Rev Sue Chapman | 6.30 pm |
| | | |

FEBRUARY

| SUN 5 | Family Service | 10.30 am |
|-------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| | Bob Jackson | |
| | Evening Worship – The Junction | 6.30 pm |
| Tue 7 | Tuesday Fellowship – Rev Roger Wood | 2.30 pm |

All contributions for the **FEBRUARY** + **MARCH** edition of the magazine should be handed in no later than **SUNDAY 22nd 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 DECEMBER

4th Welcome Break

11th Reuben Sibanda

18th Christmas Flowers – Men's Fellowship}

25th Christmas Flowers – Men's Fellowship}



FLOWER ROTA FOR JANUARY

1st Available

8th Jim & Sheila Lyall – in memory of their parents

15th Available

22nd June Whittle – in memory of Ray

29th Available

Dear Friend

I am launching a competition to rename the "New Hall". It is neither new nor a hall. It needs a re-branding exercise and look at our building in a new and different way.

You are tha person to give this space a new lease of life. So put your idea hat on and give it some thought.

The competition will be open until 31st December 2016. There will be a small prize for the successful name and you may have your photo in the church magazine,

I hope you enjoy the challenge.

Rev Sue x

Car Drivers Wanted For The Christmas Day Lunch at Hove Methodist Church



Drivers needed for Christmas Day to convey guests to and from the lunch at Hove Methodist Church.

If you could bring someone to the lunch around 12.00 - 12.30 and/or take them home around 3.30 - 4.00pm.

Please let us know asap by contacting the church office on 01273 324600

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2017

COFFEE MORNINGS

4th March Cake Stall

25th November Boys' Brigade

SUPPERS

6th May Spring Supper

23rd September Harvest Supper

FAIRS

10th June Summer Fair

2nd December Christmas Fair

PASTORATE FAMILY DAYS

5th May & 21st October 2017

What is Santa's Favourite Pizza?



One That's Deep Pan, Crisp & Even!

MENS' FELLOWSHIP

Shoreham Fort (Part 2)

As mentioned previously, the Fort was built on orders of Lord Palmerston in 1857, due to a threat of invasion by the French. This never happened. However, the Fort continued to be manned by the First Sussex Artillery Volunteers until it was decommissioned in 1906.

The Fort then took on a new role - it was used in the beginnings of the film industry.

A scenic artist named Francis Lyndhurst, grandfather of the British actor, Nicholas Lyndhurst, (of "Only Fools & Horses" fame) brought film making to the Fort in 1915.

The first picture Francis made "The Showman's Dream" was filmed at the Fort. Had it not been for the first World War, it has been suggested that Shoreham could have been "Hollywood by Sea"

It once again played an important part in our defences during the Second World War. Two switches were installed within the Fort – the harbour entrance was packed with explosives and in the event an invasion took place by the Germans, the first switch would be thrown trapping those inside the harbour. Then the second switch would be thrown. This detonated a pipeline filled with oil, which was laid along the full length of the harbour floor. The resulting explosion would ignite the oil and incinerate the boats and troops above. Fortunately, as in Palmerston's day, it was never used. The harbour was used for the mooring of boats and storing of equipment prior to D Day and the Fort was manned to ensure security of the site.

Following the war the Fort was left to decay for a number of years. Some of its areas and buildings have sadly been demolished but there are plans to rebuild her back to her 1857 glory.

Now the community joins together to give the Fort a future and a band of enthusiastic volunteers, known as "The Friends of Shoreham Fort", has been formed. They hold regular events from volunteer days, military history weekends and an annual Tea Light Remembrance Service. Shoreham Fort is a fun place to be and will continue to thrive and improve. It is open to members of the public all year round. In addition, every fortnight on a Sunday, there are free tours and refreshments when the Friends of Shoreham Fort are on site. *Peter Gear*

CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB

24th October was GALLIMAUFRY NIGHT at the Book Club and it certainly lived up to its name. In case you are uncertain about the definition of "Gallimaufry", it means, "a miscellaneous collection of oddities."

Each member had been asked to bring along a piece of poetry or prose, which meant something to him/her and our choices were very different and wide-ranging. Hence Peter read a delightful passage from a Miss Read book about a boy making a Robin Christmas card and being worried it was not good enough and whether the recipient would like it. Sentimental but it made everyone smile reminiscently. Clare had a poem, "Explorers", which she had found very useful over the years for Girl Guide devotions, whilst Kim read aloud Psalm 1. Frances had chosen an item from her daily devotions book which made her laugh so much that she was almost incapable of reading it aloud. On a more sombre note, Rosemary chose the lament of the two mothers, Mrs Tancred and Juno Boyle from Sean O'Casey's play "Juno and the Paycock" having been moved by the scenes on TV showing the violence in Syria. "Lest we forget" by Kipling was chosen by Keren as Remembrance Day approached, Chip's choice was Gerard Manley Hopkins' poem "Pied Beauty" but the climax of the evening was Pam Moody presenting us with copies of John Betjeman's "poem", HYMN and insisting we sing it. The tune is that of The Church's one Foundation

The church's restoration
In eighteen -eighty-three
Has left for contemplation
Not what there used to be.....
Sing on, with hymns uproarious,
Ye humble and aloof,
Look up! And oh how glorious
He has restored the roof!

On that note – no more need be said.

A greater change of tone could hardly be anticipated by the challenge presented to us by November's book of the month, "Tiger Mother" by Amy Chua. The book is a memoir of how the author brought up her two daughters, Sophia and Louisa, according to the dictates of being a good Chinese mother. Hence her daughters were never allowed to:

- Go on a play date
- Have a sleepover
- Be in a school play
- Complain about not being in a school play
- Watch TV or play computer games
- Get any grade less than an A
- Not be the No. 1 student in any subject, except gym and drama
- Play any instrument other than piano or violin
- Not play the piano or violin.

We found the regime, which she imposed on her daughters, impossibly restrictive and some even considered it to amount to child abuse. It is not that the group is composed of liberal laid-back parents and we do sometimes feel that, on certain issues, political correctness has ousted common sense but the enforced hours of practising on musical instruments, not of their choice, on top of extra studying to keep ahead of their classmates, seemed to make for a joyless existence, rather than a life, for the daughters. One of the incidents, which really shocked us, was when Amy Chua tore up a card, which her daughter made for her, because it wasn't done to a sufficiently high standard in the mother's eyes. (Such a contrast to the robin card of Miss Read's book.)

We also could not understand the attitude of Ms. Chua's husband to this over-disciplined life style. He seemed to have no input into his daughters' lives at all or was it anything for a quiet life?

We were fortunate to have Kim Wood with us and she was able to give some insight into the mind-set or culture of far- eastern countries and also of her own experiences as a girl in South Korea. Her cry throughout the evening was that we didn't and couldn't understand the cultural thinking of that part of the world. And to be fair we didn't.

During the time we were reading "The Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother," two articles appeared in "The Times" newspaper, which also gave us some food for thought. The first one was about a "Tiger Headmistress", who had reversed the standards of a poorly performing school in a poor inner city area by imposing strict discipline and standards not only on the children but on the parents. Result: increased

achievements in numeracy and literacy and the children liked school! The second was a report on children from a British comprehensive school who went to school in Korea for a week and their reaction to the standards and hours set there. The clearest example was when one boy, who had got 12 straight A*s in his GCEs saw a class of pupils finish an GCE maths paper in 15 minutes which, in Britain, was set to last 1 hour. The down side of the will or expectation to succeed was the high suicide rate among teenage boys who found the pressure too much.

On the other hand, as we started to read the book there was a report of an MP who admitted that his daughter texted her parents from her bedroom to the kitchen where they were, to ask what was for dinner and when it would be ready as she was hungry!!!

The blurb said the book was "hilarious" "humorous and sparky": we found it cold, formidable and absolutely lacking in charm.

By January $23^{\rm rd}$, we hope to have read "Nora Webster" by Colm Tobin and will be meeting at Clare Popley's home, at 8.00 pm. Please feel free to join us.

How did Mary & Joseph Know Jesus was 7lb 6oz when Born?



They Had a Weigh in a Manger!

YOUR LETTERS

Dear Friends,

A big Thank You to all at Central for making our recent Diamond Wedding Anniversary so special.

All your good wishes, cards and flowers, the lovely cake and the large pot of outdoor plants were very much appreciated and enjoyed.

Our love and best wishes to all,

Sheila & Jim.



Celia Elliott would like to thank all her friends at central for your lovely flowers, cards and prayers, which were so encouraging after her recent operation. It is good to have so many kind friends.

She is making steady progress and feels a lot lighter!

This is the poem Clare Popley shared with us at the Boook Club's Gallimaufry Night but as we approach a new year its words seem very appropriate:

Life is an adventure, a step into the unknown,
But as we walk this unknown path, we do not walk alone.

For parents teach us how to walk and the way that we should go;
Teachers give us the tools to use and the facts we need to know.
The friends who walk beside us share the thrills and fears,
The days of joy and gladness, the sorrow and the tears,
Never knowing what's out of sight for every day is new —
It brings us ills to vanquish, a climb to scan the view
Of the road that lies ahead of us, to plan what we should do
To gain the next peak, achieve our goal, which lies in the mist ahead.

There is more to learn, more people to love, more dangerous paths to tread,

More laughter to share, more efforts to make before our task is done, More mountains to climb, more deserts to cross before our goal is won. But as we walk this unknown path not knowing what's in store, We have one companion at our side who has walked this way before. If we put our hand in the hand of God and trust Him to lead us along, We may not know what lies ahead but at least we can't go wrong. For He will keep our feet on the path no matter how narrow the way, And bring us, through fears and darkness, to the light of eternal day.

Peter Gear celebrates 75 years with The 10th











CENTRAL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HOVE

Corner of Ventnor Villas and Blatchington Road, Hove 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.