

150 Years of Worship and Outreach

Central United Reformed Church Hove



April + May - 2017

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Sunday Youth Ministry

Mrs. A. Austen

Mrs C. Vaughan

Boys' Brigade
(Mondays)

Mr. C. Jukes

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,

As we approach the last few weeks of Lent our thoughts go to the key event in the life of Jesus as he gets closer to Jerusalem. There are two questions that are on my mind as we accompany the disciples into this unsettling week and the events that leave them reeling and disturbed “Will this Easter be different or is it just the same old story repeated?”

There are a few things that impact on our experience of Jesus and his mission of salvation for the world. First, is our life experience from last Easter to this one. Our understanding of how God has been present with us in the ups and downs of life will create new experiences in familiar Easter events. If we are grieving for someone close to us who has died, Jesus’ death can become more painful and heart breaking, because the life of our beloved can be intertwined with the life and death of Jesus. The same is true of experiences of betrayal, desertion and feelings of being unable to see a positive future. Death and dealing with death can open up new and surprising revelations about ourselves and our connection to those whom we love and miss.

The life of Jesus is a life of revelation, when we are alive to God’s word in this human narrative which is able to restore our future and give us hope. It can be troubling to take this journey with Jesus but it is a story of light overcoming darkness – death being defeated by life and God wants us to have life in all its abundance. This can be seen as an example of “the darkest clouds are just before dawn”.

The revelation of God in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus can be experienced in every step to Jerusalem. These events are opportunities open to us to commit ourselves, again to take up our cross and plant our feet in the footsteps of our Lord Jesus. What will that mean to us in the coming year? Will our life change as the lives of the disciples did? Jesus came to restore the world to God and that is the direction Jesus wants us to follow.

If we take this journey afresh, we will be able to rejoice in God’s love and protection. All the fears and anxiety the disciples

experienced at the death of Jesus were dissipated by Jesus 'resurrection as he stood among them and gave them his peace.

As we journey to the foot of the cross and beyond this Easter, I pray that God will illuminate our journey, helping us to see the signs that will meet our experience and allow us to find deeper revelation in Jesus our Lord. Amen

Easter Blessings to you and your loved ones,

Rev Sue X



FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER

We ask that you would hold in prayer the following dear friends:

Adrian Ball, who is having an operation this week. Pray for its success and that Adrian may make a full and swift recovery.

Hilary Ball that she may begin to recover at last from the severe chest infection which has troubled her for many weeks.

Sally Marteau, having come through her operation successfully, she has developed a complication, which we pray will be quickly resolved. Pray for Sally, Celia and Peter and all the family.

Please continue to pray for all our friends in rest and nursing homes or who are confined to their own homes through age or infirmity:

Ros Ayling, John Gilson, Tebello Sibanda, Kathleen Dalley, Barbara Woolvett, Peggy McMillen, Dorothy Gale, Ann Beach & family.

10TH BRIGHTON(HOVE) BOYS' BRIGADE **COMPANY**

The Company continued to enjoy its share of sporting success by winning the Battalion Swimming Gala at the beginning of February. We won the Medley Relay and the Senior rely and were the over all winners. If you look at our trophy table the rose bowl is the trophy. Congratulations to all the boys who participated and our thanks to our travelling band of supporters.





Aside from this, we enjoyed an evening making and eating pancakes – even though it was one night early for Shrove Tuesday.



We have decided to take a new approach to our Parade Services. It has become increasingly difficult to get Boys to attend the monthly Parade

Services to which we are accustomed so we are going to have only two Church Parades a year: one on St George's Day 23rd April and the other on Remembrance Sunday in November. We will continue to have devotions each week but once a month we will have a full Company Service at 7.00 pm to which **you** and parents are invited. The "service" will last approximately 20 minutes with tea and biscuits afterwards. We were very pleased with the success of our first such initiative and the positive comments we received. The singing alone was surprisingly loud and good, especially from the younger members.

We warmly invite you all to our Display on Monday 8th May at 7.00 pm. It will be held up in the church and refreshments will be served afterwards. We look forward to seeing you there.



THE OFFICERS, STAFF & BOYS

10TH BRIGHTON (HOVE)
BOYS' BRIGADE
COMPANY

Invite you to

Their

DISPLAY

Monday 8th May 7.00 pm

In

CENTRAL UNITED REFORMED
CHURCH

Entrance via Ventnor Villas

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP – FILM NIGHT

For our March meeting Peter Gear gave us the choice of two films – and instead of popcorn we had fish suppers! Both films were based on actual events and the one chosen by the majority was titled *Operation Chromite* – a presumably accurate - and certainly violent - account of a major turning point in the Korean War, with Liam Neeson playing the part of General Douglas Macarthur. For added authenticity large parts of the film were in the Korean language with English subtitles.

This presented a number of challenges for some of the audience, i.e. keeping up with the story while trying to eat fish and chips in the dark! Not a story to send you home with a warm glow (you had to rely on the fish and chips for that) but yet another example of man's inhumanity to his fellow man and the sad acceptance that 60 years on the world still faces similar problems. Perhaps next year we will choose something a bit lighter – the fellowship and the fish and chips are unlikely to change!

Bill Maclean

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP SKITTLES NIGHT

A “Not to be missed” evening of fun, games and supper

WEDNESDAY 21st JUNE

ROYAL OAK BARCOMBE

We need to know exact numbers, so please look out for the notice on the “Sign Up” notice board at the end of May.

For further information speak to Jim Lyall

OUTREACH FUND – COLLECTING JARS

Until a few years ago, these jars produced around £200 per annum. This gave us some “extra” funds, which could be used, for example, to cover the cost of posters and flyers, promoting our special services.

More recently, the amounts donated have been getting less, mainly due to fewer folk contributing. We are really grateful to those who continue to do so but a few more “savers” would make all the difference. Could you help? We are not talking about a heavy commitment.

Our suggestion is you see what loose change you have in your pocket or handbag at the end of the day and pop what you feel able to spare into your jar.

Jars are available from Alasdair Macaulay.

Central United Reformed Church

SPRING SUPPER

Saturday 6th May 6.30 pm

Ventnor Hall

Food, Fellowship & Fun

Tickets £8.00 £4.00 (under 12s)

Available from Social Activities Committee

Enjoy the lighter nights



SKILLSHARE

Everyone who uses what they have will get more. They will have much more than they need. Matt 25 v 29. ERV



I have been listening to people express anxiety over the finances of the church after renovations during 2015. I am also very impressed by the organisational skills of many people in our church family so I came up with the idea of **SkillShare** when we received two very generous donations. This seemed an opportunity not to be missed combined with practical way of engaging the church family with the gospel and making it “real” for people. **SkillShare** is a way of using the gospel story of the parable of the talents to encourage us to live by the word of God. It also stimulates a sense of stewardship and fellowship as we work out what can be done and what skills can be harnessed to be the most effective use of energy and time. By using Matthew 25 v 14 -29, we can show practical applications as a way of putting God’s word to the test and combining it with people’s skills, which are varied, diverse and enjoyable (Not all cake sales!)

3 ideas which could be undertaken, as examples:

- Car washing
- Creating craft items ie, Book Marks/Bath Bombs
- Writing a recipe book

An enterprise can be a one off or a multiple of events. It can be on church premises, homes or in the community.

We will use a proportion of the donated money, up to £750, to create enterprises where individuals or groups can apply for “Pump priming” money (In £10 units up to £50.) to get an enterprise up and running. This can be open to any church groups or individuals.

At the launch, there will be an application form, specifying the enterprise task and applying for the setting up costs, indicating a forecast of how their enterprise will work and how successful they expect to be. A representative, or leader of the group must undertake to repay the given sum if the enterprise doesn’t start or fails to yield any profit. (this is just to ensure that we don’t lose money during the process.) There will be an accompanying set of guidelines so that everyone is clear about what

they are signing up to. If young people want to get involved we can provide evidence for their “fund raising activities” to add to their documented community achievements for School. *SkillShare* will run from its launch on **Sunday 30 April 2017 – Harvest, 24 September 2017**).

Once all the money has been collected, I would like us to donate at least 10% to a local charity working in the community. Once we have launched *SkillShare* we can ask for suggestions of charities and decide at a church meeting during the time the project runs. Let’s put ourselves and God’s economy to the test and rise to the challenge!

Please pray for *SkillShare’s* success.

Rev Sue and Finance Committee X

FLOWER ROTA FOR APRIL

- 9th Available
- 16th Easter Flowers
- 23rd Easter Flowers
- 30th Adrian & Hilary Ball - in memory of their parents



FLOWER ROTA FOR MAY

- 7th In memory of Beryl Clark
- 14th Doreen Fookes – in memory of her husband
Doreen Page – in memory of Coreen
- 21st Available
- 28th Chip Dunn

CHURCH CALENDAR

APRIL

| | | |
|--------|---|----------------------------------|
| SUN 2 | Family Service Stuart Dew Evening Worship – THE JUNCTION | 10.30 am 6.30 pm |
| Mon 3 | Lent Group At Hove Methodist Christian Book Club – “The Big Fisherman” (Chip Dunn) | 7.30 pm 8.00 pm |
| Tue 4 | Tuesday Fellowship – Willow Harmony | 2.30 pm |
| Wed 5 | Lent Group At Central | 2.00 pm |
| Fri 7 | Lent Group At Hove Methodist | 10.00 am |
| Sat 8 | MAD Training Day At Hassocks URC | 10.30 am |
| SUN 9 | PALM SUNDAY (Due to Marathon) United Pastorate Service Rev Sue Chapman NO EVENING SERVICE | 4.00 pm |
| Mon 10 | Lent Group At Hove Methodist | 7.30 pm |
| Tue 11 | Soup, Sandwiches & Prayer The Manse | 12.00 noon |
| Wed 12 | Lent Group At Central | 2.00 pm |
| Thu 13 | MAUNDY THURSDAY United Service at Hove Methodist Rev. Andy Lowe | 7.30 pm |
| Fri 14 | GOOD FRIDAY United Service at Central URC Rev Peter Elliott March of Witness Starting from Brunswick Place | 10.00 am 11.30 am |

SUN 16

EASTER SUNDAY

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Seafront Service (Meet bottom of Grand Avenue) Rev Sue Chapman Easter Breakfast | 8.00 am 9.00 am 10.30 am |
| Family Service Rev Peter Elliott | |
| NO EVENING SERVICE | |



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| Tue 18 | Tuesday Fellowship – Sussex Pet Rescue Chris Thornton-Clough & Friends | 2.30 pm |
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|--------|---|---------|
| Wed 19 | Men's Fellowship Preparation for Service and Spring Supper | 7.45 pm |
|--------|---|---------|

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|--------|---|----------|
| SUN 23 | Family Service – Parade Stella Goddard | 10.30 am |
| | Evening Worship – Holy Communion Rev Peter Elliott | 6.30 pm |

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|--------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Mon 24 | Christian Book Club (Keren Hancox) | 8.00 pm |
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|--------|---|---------|
| Tue 25 | Soup Sandwiches & Prayers at the Manse | 12 noon |
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|--------|---|---------|
| Wed 26 | Christian Meditation Session Hove Methodist Church St Patrick's Road entrance | 7.00 pm |
|--------|---|---------|

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|--------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| SUN 30 | Family Service Rev Sue Chapman | 10.30 am |
| | Evening Worship Rev. Lynda Hulcoop | 6.30 pm |

MAY

| | | |
|--------|---|--------------------------------|
| Tue 2 | Tuesday Fellowship – My Poetry John Harries- Rees | 2.30 pm |
| Thu 4 | Elders' Meeting | 7.30 pm |
| Sat 6 | SPRING SUPPER | 6.30 pm |
| | | |
| SUN 7 | Family Service Rev Alex Mabbs Evening Worship – THE JUNCTION | 10.30 am 6.30 pm |
| Mon 8 | BB DISPLAY In the church | 7.00 pm |
| Tue 9 | Soup Sandwiches & Prayers The Manse | 12 noon |
| Sat 13 | TEA TIME TREATS & TALK TIME For Christian Aid 234 New Church Road | 3.00 pm |
| | | |
| SUN 14 | Family Service – Holy Communion Rev Roger Wood Evening Worship Rev Lynda Hulcoop | 10.30 am 6.30 pm |
| Tue 16 | Tuesday Fellowship Keren Hancox | 2.30 pm |
| Wed 17 | Men's Fellowship Croquet on Hove Lawns | TBA |
| Sat 20 | PASTORATE FAMILY DAY Southwick Community Church | 10.00 am |
| | | |
| SUN 21 | Family Service Rev Peter Elliott Church Meeting Evening Worship Rev Sue Chapman | 10.30 am 12 noon 6.30 pm |
| Tue 23 | Soup Sandwiches & Prayers The Manse | 12 noon |

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|--------|---|----------|
| Wed 24 | Christian Meditation Session Hove Methodist Church St Patrick's Road entrance | 7.00 pm |
| SUN 28 | Family Service TBA | 10.30 am |
| | Evening Worship Rev Peter Elliott | 6.30 pm |
| Mon 29 | HOVE CARNIVAL <i>Help Man Our Stall</i> | 11.00 am |
| Tue 30 | Tuesday Fellowship – AGM Rev Sue Chapman | 2.30 pm |

JUNE

| | | |
|-------|---|----------------|
| Fri 2 | Preparations for Summer Fair | 12 noon |
| Sat 3 | SUMMER FAIR | 10.00 am |
| SUN 4 | PENTECOST Family Service Rev Paul Young | 10.30 am |
| | Evening Worship – THE JUNCTION | 6.30 pm |
| Tue 6 | Joint Fellowship Outing From Central | depart 9.15 am |

All contributions for the **JUNE + JULY** edition of the magazine should be handed in no later than **SUNDAY 21st 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.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

14TH – 20TH MAY 2017

What is Christian Aid?

Christian Aid is a relief and development organisation whose aim is to help overcome poverty and injustice in over 50 countries around the world.

How does it work?

Christian Aid works together with local support groups of which Central is one to raise both awareness of need and millions of pounds each year. It uses other local groups to distribute aid and hope in deprived and disaster hit areas.

The organisation lobbies those with power to act with fairness and compassion to achieve a more just and equal world.

What is it planning to do this year?

The major focus of this year's campaign is the need of **refugees**. Tens of millions of people across the globe are leaving their homes, fleeing from famine, war, political chaos or extreme poverty. Yet, having risked everything for peace and safety, they are often caught in temporary camps, with inadequate shelter and services.

What are we doing?

This refugee crisis will be a theme in some of our May services and gift envelopes will be available on 7th , 14th and 21st May. Please come prepared to give as you feel able.

There will also be a social event on Saturday, 13th May, to augment our envelope giving – *see separate article*.

Pam Moody



7 INTO 1

On the afternoon of Sunday 5th March Central was delighted to be host to the other six United Reformed churches of Brighton and Hove. Roughly what some people might remember as being the “District” before reorganisation hit. So we welcomed people from the congregations of Telscombe Cliffs, Lewes Road, Saltdean, Brighthelm, Hounsom and Portslade to Central for afternoon tea followed by a united service.

What a joy that service was! The singing alone made being there worthwhile. We truly filled the whole sanctuary with praise. Each church took part in the service but the one item, which was particularly memorable, was when the churches took turns to show one article, which represented their church. Thus Portslade produced a big yellow teapot, Hounsom a bouquet of flowers, Saltdean a round wooden candle holder, Telscombe a cross-stitched picture of their church and Lewes Road a Seagull footballer. Central’s contribution was two loaves of bread made by Megan and Kayleigh Jukes, during their half-term break.

Our reasons for choosing bread were threefold. Jesus said, “ I am the Bread of Life” and He is central to our existence; bread is very much part of our fellowship and outreach being used by practically every organisation or event e.g. sandwiches for Welcome Break; bread is on the table at the front of the church for Holy Communion and at Harvest Thanksgiving.

It was interesting to listen to each church’s explanation for its choice of symbol.

The whole event was such a success that it is going to be repeated in the autumn at a different church, so that we may have the opportunity to get to know each other a little better.



Seven Churches around One Cross



House Full!



JOINT FELLOWSHIP OUTING

6th JUNE 2017

The Outing this year will start with a visit to Haskins Nursery at Copthorne with morning coffee or tea and a Danish pastry. There will be time for a look around before we depart for Penshurst Place and Gardens, driving through the Kent countryside and arriving in time for either a packed lunch, which you have brought with you, or you can purchase a lunch there from a selection of hot food. (This costs around £10 or soup at £4.50 or sandwiches from around £3.95.) Please let Angela know if you would like hot food.

Admission, which is included in the over all cost of the day, allows you to visit the house, where there are steps, so, if you are in a wheelchair, you will only be able to visit the ground floor. There is a video which shows the upper floor for those who cannot climb the stairs. The gardens are accessible to all.

We will return to Hounsom via Ashdown Forest for a cream tea to finish the day.

The day will cost £21, including coach, access to Penshurst House and Gardens, morning coffee and afternoon cream tea.

Angela and Trevor will take anyone, who needs a lift, home from Hounsom after the cream tea.

Please contact Angela at Hounsom or by telephoning 01273 551926 or Jean at Portslade.

The day will start from Hounsom at 9.30 am or at Portslade 15 minutes later.

Friends from Central will be collected from there at 9.15 am

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Be still, and know that I am God.

Wednesday 26th April

Wednesday 24th May

7.00 - 8.00 pm

HOVE METHODIST CHURCH

(Entry by St Patrick's Road)

CHRISTIAN AID EVENT

Following last year's successful Cakes, Cookies and Chat event, we are planning:

Tea Time Treats and Talk Time

At

Chip Dunn's home

234 New Church Road BN3 4EB

(opposite St Leonards Church)

Buses 6, 1 and 1a.

SATURDAY 13TH MAY 3.00 – 5.00 pm

This will be a relaxed social occasion in comfortable surroundings, where we hope you will enjoy each other's company and, if you wish, take part in a few **Christian Aid** based activities. You will be able to enjoy the garden and, if fine, try (or watch) a little table-tennis and trampolining!

There is no charge but we hope for donations to the work of **Christian Aid's** 2017 Refugee Project. These monies will augment Central's giving through Christian Aid envelopes – available in church on 7th, 14th and 21st May.

Please come on Saturday 13th May!

Some indication of numbers to me Pam Moody (Tel: 01273 736511) or to Chip Dunn (01273 414615) would be helpful, but not essential. Thank you.

Pam Moody.

WOOL

A lady has offered to knit us novelties for fund raising. If you have any spare oddments of wool that you can donate, please pass them on to Celia Elliott.

CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB

Our February meeting had to impose a time limit to the discussion of our book of choice as we could only spend half the usual time on it. We also had to prepare some ideas for our Mothering Sunday service which, in a moment of madness we had agreed to lead.

So, we indulged ourselves by choosing, *The Small Miracle* by Paul Gallico, as it seemed a small story which could be quickly read. To make up for this we decided to chose *The Big Fisherman* - a very thick book with small print - for our meeting on 4th April.

The *Small Miracle* is a delightful gem of a book. We all enjoyed it and it put smiles on our faces when we talked about it. And yet – there is always the equivalent of a BUT – its very simplicity is deceptive. A story about a ten year old boy, Pepino, and his donkey, Violetta, who live in Assisi in the aftermath of World War II The two are closer than any boy and his pet as Pepino is an orphan whose family have been killed in the war.

Disaster happens when Violetta becomes ill. The story is about Pepino's struggle to cure Violetta by getting her to the tomb of St Francis of Assisi under ground in the crypt of the Basilica.

To do so Pepino has to go through all the various layers of bureaucracy and the hierarchy of the church right from his humble ordinary priest Father Damico right up to the Pope himself.

A corporal in the United States Army, Francis Xavier O'Halloran had once told Pepino, "If you want to get ahead in this world, kid, never take no for an answer." So, over and over in his quest to save Violetta, that is exactly what Pepino does.

Peter Elliott said that story reminded him of the verses 9 and 10 in Luke 11. "Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find..."

There are other parallels, which can be found to other Biblical verses and other literary characters, but the book is entire and complete in itself. Its characters are recognisable and the story sweeps the reader totally in to the adventures of the two. And we are left with a cliff hanger question.

Highly recommended by all of us to readers of all ages from 9 to 90.

On April 4th, appropriately for the season, we meet in Chip Dunn's home to discuss *The Big Fisherman* by Lloyd Douglas. Should be good

because the excitement is bursting out already, despite our “rule “ about not discussing a book before the meeting.

Venue: Chip Dunn’s Date: Monday 4th April

Time: 8.00 pm.

All welcome.

POSTCARDS FOR PLANES

Dear Rev Sue,

At the end of last year I told you about the postcards I collect to raise money for the Mission Aviation Fellowship, a Christian medical charity, working in remote parts of the Third World. Violet Foard, a late member of Central, was a tireless collector and supported this charity for many years. By the end of 2016 we had raised £26,000.

Would it be possible for this charity to be brought to the attention of your congregation?

The postcards can be used or not, recent or old, from anywhere in the world and on any subject. I can collect them from the church on a Wednesday morning, when I attend the U3A singing class.

God bless you for your valuable contributions to such a worthy cause.

Anne Uzochukou

** N.B. Pam Moody has said that she is happy to collect the cards and pass them on to Anne Uzochukou, with whom she once taught. Pam will arrange for a box in which you can place your cards to be placed in the Upper Vestibule after Easter.*

CENTRAL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

SUMMER FAIR

Saturday 3rd June

10.00 am — 1.00 pm

Various Stalls Morning Coffee

Light Lunches

HOVE CARNIVAL

Monday 29th May in Hove Park 11 am

Last year we had a stand at this event and it was very successful in promoting the Church.

I have booked a stand for this year, and hope that Hounsom and Portslade will also have one so that we can make a real U.R.C. impact.

If you have a sideshow please let me know and if you could give an hour or so on the day that would be a great help. Keren.

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



Welcome to Central!

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.