

Central United Reformed Church Hove



December 2017+ January 2018

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Sunday Youth Ministry Mrs. A. Austen

Boys' Brigade Mr. C. Jukes (Mondays)

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,

Can you believe that the Christmas Lights have been switched on in George Street and Christmas decorations and trees will be lighting up our streets, crescents, roads, closes and avenues? Where did this year go? I have heard so many people say the year has just flown by. The question I am asking myself is "Have I done anything meaningful during the year?" It is an interesting and reflective question. It could be followed by the question, "What happened this year?". It might take us sometime to recall the highlights and significant events. They could have been happy events, celebrations and milestones or they could have been disappointing, upsetting or sad; and lots of "ordinary" days when nothing really seemed to happen of any significance — We just got on with life!

As we enter the Advent and Christmas Season we are reminded that each year is special and precious, because we live in the light of God's love, in the faith of Jesus Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit. We are reminded of the story of God's plan to reveal Godself in a tiny vulnerable baby whose life makes an incredible and indelible impact on the world. A life which teaches us how to live in the way of God. As we hear of the call from darkness to light; the messengers who proclaimed the message of God's salvation, the ministry of John the Baptist, the obedience of Mary and faith of Mary and Joseph, together, to trust God, even though their world would be turned upside down; not just the experience of having a first baby, but that their baby would be so very special in the history of the world.

This season gives us an opportunity to re-read and retell the story and to remember Christmases past when we heard the angel song as it called to us. We experience the unexpected visit of angels to the shepherds and we feel their fear and confusion at first, but then as they "go and see" and return changed by this experience. We feel their joy and thanksgiving and the words on their lips, "Glory to God" echoing the words of the angels, but owning those words for themselves. Jesus still comes to those who need him and we are reminded that as we buy gifts for family and friends to think about people who need support this Christmastime and New Year. The food banks are under pressure; there are more homeless on our streets than ever before, individuals and families are under pressure to make ends meet. Please pray and support the vulnerable people in our community and look for God given opportunities to help where you can. In this way you can give light into hard and challenging circumstances

and God will be honoured by your actions.

May we take the message of the Christmas story into our hearts and rise to the actions it compels us to make in the year to come. May Jesus, "God with us", be found there and our joy shared with all the people we meet in this wonderful and blessed time.

I pray that you and your family have a blessed Christmas and New Year and that you will make memories together which you will share for many Christmases to come. May God be with us, everyone.

Your friend in Christ,

Sue X

Advent 2017 @ Central Hove URC at 8 pm



The Best Preparation for Christmas!

Tuesday 05 December - Hopes and Dreams

Tuesday 12 December - When Life Doesn't Go Our

FAMILY NEWS FROM CENTRAL

It was with sadness that we learned of the death from cancer of **Ann Beach's** son, **Ian**, early this week. Ian had fought the disease bravely since his diagnosis. We surround Ann and Ian's wife and family with our sympathy, love and prayers that God will strengthen and comfort them in their time of anguish.

John Gilson is still recovering from his severe stroke and remains in his nursing home outside Worthing. **Dick Dench** is now in hospital and, although his medical condition has stabilised, he remains physically weak. Please think of Dick, Ann and Pamela during this stressful time.

Kathleen Dalley is fading a little after the excitement of her 100th birthday party. Although **Molly Fraser** has made it back to church for the past few Sundays she, along with **Betty Briggs**, is greatly missed. They are frequently referred to and their sense of fun and friendliness has left a gap in our church family life.

Celia Elliott is still in poor health and is very frustrated by her inability to do all the things she used to do. As we know she was never one to sit twiddling her fingers. Please hold both Celia and Peter in your prayers. **Tebello Sibanda** is also very ill as her Parkinsons grows worse.

We ask that you remember all these beloved friends in your prayers. May they know that we have not forgotten them nor are they absent from our hearts as we celebrate Christmas.

Christmas – the time of our Saviours birth, so it is such a pleasure to learn of the births of two babies. **Mary and Brian Teggart** are in Hong Kong at the moment greeting their new granddaughter. **Annika Victoria** was born on 1st November to Norma and Neil Freeman – a sister for Hally Mae

Two weeks later, **Frances Beacham** became a grandmother for the second time on 15th November, when **Mia Jessica** was born, weighing 8 lbs 8 ozs to Gary, Sarah and big brother, Dylan.

What a joy to celebrate a new-born baby in the family this Christmas! We send our congratulations and best wishes to both families and pray that God will bless both little girls.

The Light Day in November was voted a success by all who attended. There seemed to be something for everyone, whatever their age. The children loved the dark room (the Committee Room); there were crafts to

be made and, for those who just wanted to watch and chat, there were seats, tables, tea and company.

The BB Coffee Morning was busy and had a wonderful atmosphere. There was a real buzz in the Ventnor Hall and now we can look forward to their Old Time Music Hall about which Pam Stringer spoke so enthusiastically and eloquently at Church Meeting. If she who has witnessed so many rehearsals can be so excited and moved then we are in for a real treat in January.

But before that we can look forward to the **Christmas Concert** on Saturday, 16th December, featuring our very own musicians: Carl Jukes, Alan Ireland, Jinny & Graham Smith. Not only are we assured of wonderful music but Keren, having recovered from her baking marathon for the Christmas Fair, will be providing a ploughman's supper afterwards. All this talent for £5!!!

Thank you to everyone who gives so generously of their talents in many and varied capacities throughout the year.

May we wish each and everyone every blessing throughout Christmas and into the New Year.

Fellowship of Prayer: Wendy Blackburn. John Gilson, Tebello Sibanda, Barbara Wolvett, Dorothy Gale and Molly Fraser, Betty Briggs, the Elliott & Marteau families.

NANAN	गुजननगजनगजनगजनगजनगजनगजनगजनगजन	
	FLOWER ROTA FOR DECEMBER	
3rd	Welcome Break	
10th	Keren Hancox - in memory of her father	
17th }		
24th }	Christmas Flowers - Men's Fellowship	
31st }		
Š	Flower rota for JaNUARY	
7th	at Hove Methodist	
14th	Jim & Sheila Lyall - in memory of their parents	
21st	Available	
28th	June Whittle - in memory of Ray	
वैकारवायवायवायवायवायवायवायवायवायवायवायवायवं		



10TH BRIGHTON(HOVE) BOYS' BRIGADE COMPANY



A very big thank you to all of you who came to our Coffee Morning on 25th November.

We were delighted to see so many friends, including past members and passers-by. We appreciate your support. We would also like to express our gratitude to those who made donations to support our BB Week fundraising effort.

Time is flying by and we are working hard rehearsing for our Old Time Music Hall. Some of the new numbers are really coming on well.

Happy Christmas. See you in January. Book early to avoid disappointment.



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

For several years it was a tradition of this church that we should have in the Upper Vestibule a large Christmas Card which people could sign to convey their good wishes to friends, instead of giving out individual ones. They would then make a donation to a chosen charity.

This year the custom is being revived. A card will be available for signing on 10th and 17th December. The charity chosen by Church Meeting will be Crohns UK. This was chosen because, as you know, Hilary and Adrian Ball's grandson, Joe, has been diagnosed as suffering from this. A letter, expressing his gratitude for our concern and prayers, was in the Oct/Nov magazine.

Crohns Disease affects 300,000+ people in the UK. Crohns and Colitis UK helps people with Crohns and Ulcerative Colitis in the following ways:

- Provides essential services to people with Crohns, Colitis and other forms of inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)
- Informs and influences decisions about the needs of people with these conditions
- Raises funds to continue work across the UK

Seeks to improve existing treatments and discover new ones by taking part in research.

Please help to support their drive to help people across the UK with the condition to live their lives to the fullest by making a donation while signing the card.

There is an excellent informative and easily accessible web site Crohns& Colitis UK.







CHURCH CALENDAR

DECEMBER

DECEMBE	<u>un</u>	
SUN 3	FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT GIFTS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE for FRESH STA Family Worship Rev John & Rev Andrea Irvine Evening Worship – THE JUNCTION A Journey into Christmas * Please note early start time	ART 10.30 am 6.00 pm*
Mon 4	Inter Faith Prayers Hove Methodist Church	6.30 pm
Tue 5	Tuesday Fellowship – Music Ken Smith Soup, Sandwiches & Prayers—The Manse Advent Course Hopes and Dreams Fellowship Room	2.30 pm 12 noon 8.00 pm
Sat 9	Christmas Tree Festival – Portslade URC	
SUN 10	SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT Family Festival Service Choir Practice Christmas Tree Festival – Portslade URC Evening Worship Rev Peter Elliott	10.30 am 11.45 am 6.30 pm
Tue 12	Advent Course When Life doesn't go your Way	8.00 pm
Sat 16	CHRISTMAS CONCERT	6.30 pm
SUN 17	THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT Family Service Rev Peter Elliott Carols by Candlelight (Refreshments afterwards) Rev. Sue Chapman	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Mon 18	Bluebird Christmas Party	9.15 am
Tue 19	Bluebird Christmas Party Soup, Sandwiches & Prayer– The Manse Tuesday Fellowship Christmas Party With Priscilla	9.15 am 12 noon 2.30 pm
	Advent Course - In Dark Times	8.00 pm

Thu 21	Carol Singing at Hove Railway Station With Hove Methodists	6.30 pm
SUN 24	FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT CHRISTMAS EVE Family Service No evening service Service of Holy Communion Rev Sue Chapman	10.30 am 11.00 pm
Mon 25	CHRISTMAS DAY Family Service Rev Sue Chapman	10.30 am
SUN 31	Joint Service with Hove Methodists At Central Rev Sue Chapman no Evening Service	10.30 am



JANUARY

SUN 7	Joint Service with Methodists At Hove Methodist Church, Portland Road Rev Andy Lowe Evening Worship – THE JUNCTION	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Mon 8	Bluebird re-starts	9.15 am
Tue 9	Bluebird re-starts Soup, Sandwiches & Prayer At the Manse Tuesday Fellowship – Clare Popley	9.15 am 12 noon 2.15 pm
Wed 10	Elders' Meeting At the Manse	7.30 pm
SUN 14	Family Service – Holy Communion Rev Peter Elliott	10.30 am
	Evening Worship Rev. Lynda Hulcoop	6.30 pm

Wed 17	Men's Fellowship New Year Party	7.15 pm
SUN 21	Family Service Stuart Dew	10.30 am
	Evening Worship Rev Sue Chapman	6.30 pm
Tue 23	Soup, Sandwiches & Prayer At the Manse	12 noon
	Tuesday Fellowship – Ron Graves Pictures	2.15 pm
Fri 26	BB Old Time Music Hall	7.30 pm
Sat 27	BB Old Time Music Hall BB Old Time Music Hall	2.30 pm 7.30 pm
SUN 28	Family Service Bob Jackson	10.30 am
	Evening Worship – Holy Communion Rev Peter Elliott	6.30 pm
Mon 29	Christian Book Club – The Year of Wonders (Clare Popley)	8.00 pm

FEBRUARY

SUN 4	Family Service	10.30 am
	Rev Ken Lynch Evening Worship – THE JUNCTION	6.30 pm
Tue 6	Tuesday Fellowship – Alan Saunders	2.30 pm

All dates and times given here are correct at the time of going to print. Any changes or additional meetings will be given in Orders of Service in the preceding week.

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

CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB

There was a certain irony in the fact that the day after Reformation Sunday the Book Club met to discuss "Conclave" by Robert Harris. As most of you know, a Conclave is when the Roman Catholic Church's cardinals meet in the Sistine Chapel to elect a new Pope.

Initially we were intrigued mostly by the seemingly convoluted ceremonies involved in declaring a pope dead and the convocation of a Conclave; then by the grand sounding titles of the hierarchy – the Master of Papal Liturgical Celebration, the Cardinal Major Penitentiary, the Camerlengo, or Chamberlain of the Holy See. The list seems endless. And when, eventually, from all corners of the world 117 cardinals are assembled to begin the vote, another turns up, literally in the clothes he has upon his back – no luggage – nothing. And none knew of his existence, apart from the dead Pope, because it would have been too dangerous for this Cardinal's continued existence. So, 118 cardinals meet to elect a new Pope, when, guided by the Holy Spirit they are to choose the next Christ's representative on Earth.

Except....they are men. And, when the politicking begins, it seems the Holy Spirit is the last thing they wish to hear or be guided by. There are the conservatives versus the liberals: the Africans versus the Italians etc., etc., blackmail, money laundering and embezzlement and all the other little branches of the same, including massive egos.

Cardinal Lomeli is the man responsible for arranging the conclave and would appear to be the one man who does not wish to be Pope and actively prays about each task But, even he, for one brief moment, briefly, thinks, "Could it? Could I?"

It is a fascinating book, a compelling read, as we are led through all the machinations and manoeuvrings of an election, which makes an American election seem positively tame! And to add to it all, it is all done in secrecy behind closed doors- no phones, no computers and no TV cameras or endless interviews.

The final twist made us shriek out loud with laughter! And punch the air!! For once we agreed with the Guardian.

Our favourite new word of the year has been "Gallimauphry" and we had another such evening on Monday 27th when we assembled in Chip Dunn's home for a Christmas one. Chip had not only provided a meeting place, but, also, as it was nearly Christmas, a delicious meal followed by

a Pam Moody dessert. Waistlines expanded, we postponed coffee until after our sharing of favourite Christmas readings.

As usual these were diverse and ranged from the Bible, to verse, to deep thoughts/sermons. Whatever form the extracts took one theme emerged, common to all: LOVE. From God to Man, neighbour for neighbour, husband for wife or even that of a donkey for a Saviour. Some beautiful written and balanced: others more simplistic in style but Love came down through Christmas.

We have had a deeply satisfying and pleasurable few months since we restarted in September, reading, discussing and learning from our book choices and also from each other. We would welcome new members any time

On January 29th we are meeting in Clare Popley's home at 8.00 pm when the book of choice will be "The Year of Wonders".

PLEASE make a note to keep <u>Friday</u>, 16th <u>February</u>, 2018 free and join us in the halls for a very special evening of film, food and a book launch. The film is a golden oldie, "Mrs Harris goes to Paris" (Translators will be available.) The food will be some of our book club recipes made from our Book Club Recipe Book, which will be on sale from that evening. It will be fun. Promise.

And finally may we share one of our readings with you.

Keeping Christmas

By Henry Van Dyke

It is a good thing to observe Christmas Day. The mere marking of times and seasons, when men agree to stop work and make merry together, is a wise and wholesome custom. It helps one to feel the supremacy of the common life over the individual life. It reminds a man to set his own little watch, now and then, by the great clock of humanity, which runs on sun time.

But there is a better thing than the observance of Christmas Day, and that is, keeping Christmas.

Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you; to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world; to put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground; to see that your fellowmen are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy; to own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life; to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness - are you willing to do these things even for a day?

Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and the desires of little children; to remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old; to stop asking how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough; So bear in mind the things that other people have to bear - on their hearts; to try to understand what those who live in the same house with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you; to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you; to make a grave for your ugly thoughts, and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open - are you willing to do these things even for a day?

Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world - stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death - and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love?

Then you can keep Christmas,

And, if you keep it for a day, why not always?

But you can never keep it alone.



SOUTHERN SYNOD



Christmas 2017

Dear Friends,

"Fake news" has been named Word of the Year by Collins Dictionary and will be printed in the next edition. The phrase, which is often used by Donald Trump, has seen a 365 per cent rise in use since 2016. It is often defined as false, often sensational, information disseminated under the guise of news reporting. There's a lot of it about and even if everyone spots it and dismisses it, it still manages to sow doubt causing us to question nearly everything in order that we may find a lie. Of course, questioning can be healthy as our attitude to sexploitation in the workplace attests to. But I've also seen comments on videos from wartorn countries that suggest the news is fake and dead children and grieving mothers are just actors. Evil is made even worse by the denial of its existence.

As Christians, we believe in the good news which claims to tell a truth that can seem to contradict what we know to be scientific truth: some two thousand years ago, an angel appeared to a young Jewish girl and told her that she would carry the son of God. The baby grew up preaching and teaching, making the blind see and the lame walk amongst other things. Then at thirty-three years old, he was crucified and, three days later, he rose from the dead.

To us today this might be considered fake news. But this is real news. And it is real, not just because of historical evidence from Josephus or Pliny but because of Love. Philosophers and biologists will say that love is just a concept or an evolutionary quirk. Society doesn't seem very interested in talking about it. And so, the news, fake or otherwise, is dominated by evil.

But the good news <u>is</u> that Love came down at Christmas. The power of love here on earth is immense. We cannot buy love because it must be a gift given freely. When we are embraced in love, we know it is because others truly care for us, not because of a good they hope to get from us. We are secure because we know that we are cherished by others for what we are. God's gift to us <u>is</u> a gift of love. God so loved the world that He gave...so says John's Gospel. It is a giving love, a generous love. It is

grace love, gift love; free and unconstrained. God doesn't make a list and check it twice to find out who's naughty or nice before He gives His Christmas gift. His gift is free and undeserved and unsolicited and unlooked for love. The love-gift of God is ours. We need only take it by faith in Jesus Christ. That's the message of the Scriptures. That is the good news for Christmas. The greatest gift ever given, offered free, unconditionally to all who believe.

At this time of year, people head to midnight services only in part because it's something to do or they're drunk or they do it because it gives them a lovely feeling. Carols have the best-known tunes. By candlelight, the church glows. But here must also be a transformation of the heart — and there generally is. Charity will be provided this year, as every year, by millions of Christians because love is tangible. It is a full stomach (a Christmas day lunch at church for those on their own). It is a bed for the night (in the Winter Night shelter). It is a friendly phone call or even just a smile. We do this big Christmas festival thing for a reason: because Love teaches us to walk the way of the Christ-child in humility and service.

Some people have found 2017 disappointing and depressing. But then evil trades in doubt and we should resist it. The fake news is that humankind is lost. The good news is that, because Love came down at Christmas, it can be saved

Come, Lord Jesus.

Be born in us this Christmas.

With Advent and Christmas blessings,

NICOLA

Just a little donkey but on my back I bore
The one and only Saviour the world was waiting for.
Just a little donkey but I was strong and proud
I gladly carried Mary through the chaos of the crowd.
I brought her to a stable where she made a tiny bed
A place for baby Jesus to lay his little head.
I pray the world remembers that special Christmas night
When just a little donkey carried Heaven's precious Light.

In the last Church Magazine, the Reformation article mentioned climate change and natural disasters and explained how part of our call from Jesus is to go to those, who suffer from the effects of these, and care for them.

One of my Life Boys in the 13th BB is now a Colonel in the USA Air Force living in Houston, Texas. I have kept in touch with Brian and so naturally contacted him when Hurricane Harvey, the most powerful hurricane for a decade, hit Houston. I was very impressed with his reply and thought that it would be nice to share it with you.

Hilary so nice to hear from you

The family is all safe and we dodged the floods but it was close.

Personally, I ran the Air Operations Command Post in Houston running 39 helicopters 24x7 doing Search and Rescue

The numbers, weather and lives saved were amazing.

I just stood down after 4 days almost non-stop for a night's sleep then back at 06.00 for the next phase of assessment then relief and then we move to Corpus from Houston for the next phase. My own unit base was destroyed and totally under water. Not just the military base but the whole Area of Operation - towns, villages, boats, houses, etc. The destruction is enormous. Worse storm in over 100 years.

I guess old age and experience coupled with first class shipmates and aviators saved the day. Forgetting all the real trauma cases we dealt with, the incredible number of maternity cases we dealt with was mind blowing. I was like an expectant father again but learnt so much more about the inner strength of very tough rescue swimmers being very careful and sensitive to terrible heart ache.

I found out last night we had 'pulled' by helo-hoist or by landing over 13,000 people.

The sorties dealt with trauma, drowning, brain damage, pregnancy, ALS, stranded quadriplegics, asthmatics and diabetics up to their chests in 5 feet of water; children, the elderly, even getting 400 people off the roof of a school in torrential rain, thunderstorms, low visibility and darkness.

It's only phase one of the rescue for now: we have years of rebuilding and families having to deal with the impact emotionally and financially.

Did not mean to go on so long but thought you might like an 'Inside' perspective,

Best wishes to you and Adrian.

Working in the Boys' Brigade you may never see the results of your endeavours but, thank God, there are many men around the world, having gone through the ranks of the BB who are only too willing to help & care for people in these sort of situations.

Hilary Ball

Coming in January 2018 ...

The Story: The Bible as one continuing story of God and his people.

This book tells the grandest, most compelling story of all time: The story of a true God who loves the children of creation, who establishes for them a way of salvation and provided a route to eternity. Each story in 31 chapters reveals the God of grace - the God who speaks; the God who acts: the God who listens; the God whose love for people culminated in the sacrifice of Jesus, his only Son, to atone for the mistakes of humanity.

We will be using this in the services in 2018 to help us fix on How God interacts with humanity and each one of us, as individuals, church family and in community.

There is also a workbook, which can be downloaded, so copies can be reproduced for those who want to do personal study or get together to talk to others. We will produce a sample for you to consider. It could be a "new habit" to cultivate! Please give it your best thoughts.

Rev Sue

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.