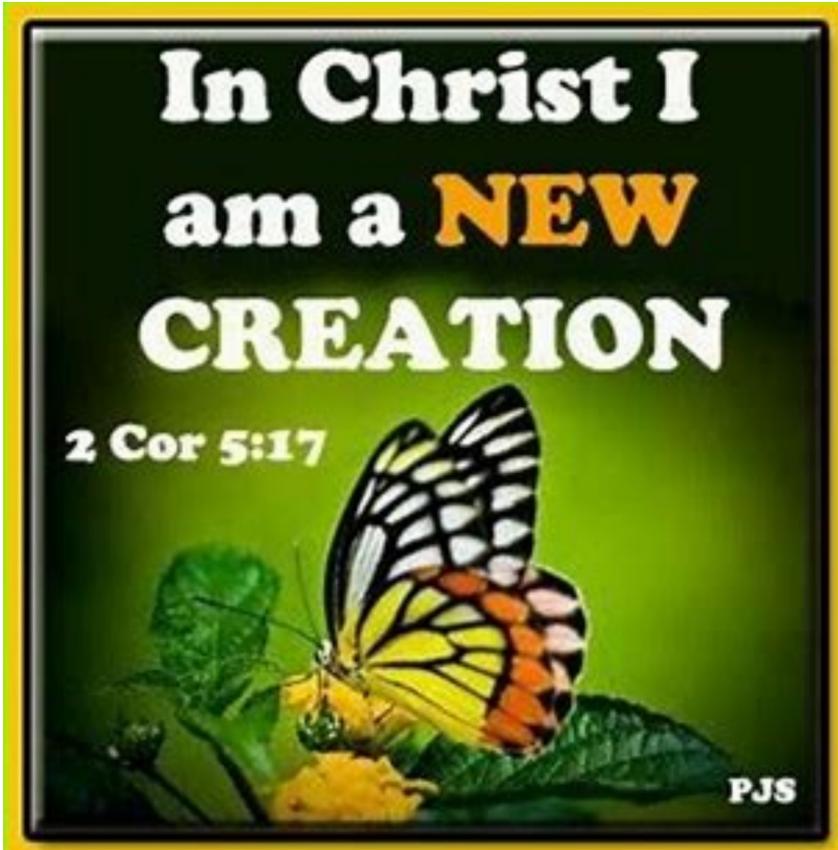




*150 Years of Worship and Outreach*

Central  
United Reformed Church  
Hove



October+ November 2018

# CHURCH ACTIVITIES

*Sunday Youth Ministry*

Mrs. A. Austen

*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](mailto:info@centralurchove.com)**

## **MISSED CHURCH?**

You can listen to the Sunday Morning Service by going to our website:  
[www.centralurchove.com](http://www.centralurchove.com) and hearing the recording.

## *Dear Friends,*

*3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with the fullness of his blessing in Christ. Ephesians 1 v 3*

*17 Whoever is a believer in Christ is a new creation. The old way of living has disappeared. A new way of living has come into existence. 2 Corinthians 5 v 17.*

What wonderful scriptures we can share together. They remind me of that incredulous question that Nicodemus posed to Jesus in John 3; ‘How can someone possibly be born’, asked Nicodemus, ‘when they’re old? You’re not telling me they can go back a second time into the mother’s womb and be born, are you? How can Jesus work in our lives?’ We all feel our age and our limitations as we get older, but we need to remind ourselves that God loves us and believes in us; giving us the Holy Spirit to help us, trusts us with the work of building the kingdom of God. Would you choose yourself with that task, or put yourself forward? However, God sees us differently to the way we see ourselves. God loves us and believes in us. God values us all and wants us to be partners in building the kingdom.

I invite you to cast your mind back to when you first recognised Jesus and wanted to invite Him into your life or maybe a gradual realisation that Jesus was becoming increasingly important in your life. What did that experience feel like? How did you feel for the next few days or weeks? Do you still have that sense of excitement when you read God’s word and pray, in the name of Jesus? There is lots of information in this issue about how we can recapture our early excitement about being a Christian and find new ways to honour Jesus in our church life.

I have had conversations with many of you about the desire to see the church growing and developing in response to God’s call to us. We are serving God in the church; therefore, we must allow God to shape the future. “How can we do this?”

We must build our personal and church family life on Jesus, supported by the power of the Holy Spirit. We need to put our trust in God’s Word and Prayer; tools of Holy communication which support our relationship with God. We all know that all important relationships need to be worked at and cultivated. Just like a plant. If we lavish our attention on our plant, it will grow and flourish. If we don’t pay careful attention, it may wither and even die. God is calling us to renew and revitalise our commitment to

this church family. We all need to pay attention to our personal health and well-being. This is the same process for our church family's health and long life. This is an invitation for you to begin that energising process; we all need to rediscover the power God gives us as a faithful church.

Please come on this journey, together, we can leave behind all the things that hold us back and take up the energy which will help us be a vibrant community of faith for the future. We can rely on and serve God faithfully, with our heart, soul, mind and strength. It is only when are fully focussed on God that we will be equipped to reach out into the community which God calls us to serve in faith.

Please take opportunities presented during the Autumn to reconnect to God's power and work, through Jesus. Please pray for God's guidance and direction. Who knows where God is leading us?

Your co-worker in Jesus,

*Sue X*

This is a Hymn to encourage you: Sung to tune: Abbots Leigh (Living God your joyful Spirit, or Lord, thy church on earth is seeking)

God who sets us on a journey to discover, dream and grow,  
lead us as you led your people in the desert long ago;  
journey inward, journey outward, stir the spirit, stretch the mind,  
love for God and self and neighbour marks the way that Christ defined.

Exploration brings new insights, changes, choices we must face;  
give us wisdom in deciding, mindful always of your grace;  
should we stumble, lose our bearings, find it hard to know what's right,  
we regain our true direction focused on the Jesus light.

End our longing for the old days, grant the vision that we lack –  
once we've started on this journey there can be no turning back;  
let us travel light, discarding excess baggage from our past,  
cherish only what's essential, choosing treasure that will last.

When we set up camp and settle to avoid love's risk and pain,  
you disturb complacent comfort, pull the tent pegs up again;  
keep us travelling in the knowledge you are always at our side;  
give us courage for the journey, Christ our goal and Christ our guide.

© Joy Dine

## **VISION DAY 2**



**Saturday 13th October 2018**

**11.00 –13.00**

**You are invited to our Vision Day so that we can make plans for the future direction of the church.**

**Your ideas and experience are valued.**

**Please come and share**

**We can't do it properly without YOU!**

## **FAMILY NEWS FROM CENTRAL**

It is bewildering and strange how quickly this year has flown by – almost incredible to find that we are printing some dates about Christmas in this edition of the magazine. Perhaps there is method in the apparent madness of shops displaying Christmas cards so apparently early.

Summer flew by with lots of preparations being made so the various organisations could re-start. We were happy to welcome a very jolly group from Sue's old home in Luton, who despite Brighton's traffic jams, eventually managed to enjoy a tea at Central.

We are pleased to report that, after a longer stay in hospital than anticipated, **Celia Elliott**, is now home and feeling much more energetic. Almost back to her old self.

**Frances Beacham** has had a busy few months by moving house and becoming a grandmother again, when baby **Grace** was born to **Sharon** on 9<sup>th</sup> August. We pray that Grace will be a blessing to her parents and all the family and that God will shower her with His Grace.

We would like to extend our sincere sympathy to **Dr. Sheila Purchase** on the death of her husband, Dick, on 6<sup>th</sup> September. We pray that she will find comfort and strength in the knowledge that we are holding her in our prayers.

**Dorothy Welsh** is also in need of our prayerful support as she has just returned home on 1<sup>st</sup> October after a stay in the Royal Sussex Hospital due to a fall that fractured her spine. We pray that she may continue to make a steady recovery.

**Carol Gill** is recovering from knee surgery and, having been so active, is finding the convalescent period both painful and tedious. Please pray for a swift, steady and complete recovery for Carol during the coming weeks.

Two Big Happy Birthdays were celebrated this September, apart from Helen Brown's 90<sup>th</sup>. Our pastorate partner, Housom Memorial URC celebrated its 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a united service on 16<sup>th</sup> September. We pray that they will continue to be blessed in their endeavours to bear witness to Christ's love and salvation in the years to come. And our Book Club celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday with chocolate cake at its September meeting.

Harvest is a time of thanksgiving and in the past week we have been able

to thank God for the generosity of his bounty in the Harvest and for the generosity of friends in His service to this church.

This year instead of a Harvest Supper, we had a Harvest Luncheon after the morning service on 30<sup>th</sup> September. Not only was this well attended, with a lovely warm atmosphere but we had the added pleasure of having the company of some friends we have missed. **Doreen Fookes**, as smiling and cheerful as ever, and **Alasdair Macaulay**, in good form, were among those who joined us both at the Harvest Thanksgiving service and at lunch.

Thank you to all those who contributed to the delicious lunch and also to those who contributed to the decoration of the church, by donation, by supplying foliage and by giving of their time to arrange the displays.

One person who deserves special mention and thanks is **Pam Macaulay**, who has decided to stand down from Welcome Break, which was started at her initiative and which she has organised for 23 years. While other organisations took a welcome break at holiday times Welcome Break rarely did, thanks to Pam's enthusiasm for this outreach. At the service, we were able to pay tribute to Pam's service and care at Welcome Break and to express our appreciation to her by presenting her with a framed certificate and a tub of flowers for her garden.

Unfortunately, while we were celebrating at Central, **Dorothy Gale** was spending that Sunday morning in A& E. We trust it was a short visit and that she is now back in her rest home recovering.

We know there are many who would like to join us in our worship and celebrations and we miss them, while hopefully assuring them of our love and prayers.

Fellowship of Prayer:

*Wendy Blackburn, John Gilson, Betty Briggs, Molly Fraser, Mary Cochrane, Gift Mubanga, Alasdair Macaulay, Reuben and Tebello Sibanda, Kathleen Dalley, Ros Ayling, Willi Ghoshal & husband, Ajit.*

## **A TRIBUTE TO PAM MACAULAY**

*By Keren Hancox, Church Secretary, Morning Service, Sunday 30th September, 2018.*

Twenty-three years ago Pam Macaulay started WELCOME BREAK. This was to be a lunch time non-profit making drop-in for anyone in the community.

Pam has run it, organised its helpers and been there nearly every Wednesday ever since.

One thing became slightly different from the original vision: it made a profit, which gave £10,00 to the church and £5,00 to other charities over the 23 years.

Pam's love and friendship has come to mean a huge amount to many lonely people. She knew how they liked their tea, which sandwiches they preferred or if they had their soup in a cup or a dish. She listened to their stories and often was one of the few at their funeral.

This sort of pastoral care is very rare today, so, it was with great sadness that we, and they, learned Pam was retiring.

Pam, we would like to take this opportunity, as a whole church, of thanking you for the last 23 years work .



## CHURCH CALENDAR

### OCTOBER

|        |   |                                |
|--------|---|--------------------------------|
| SUN 7  | Joint Harvest Service at<br>Hove Methodist Church, Portland Road<br>THE JUNCTION              | 10.30 am<br>6.30 pm            |
| Tue 9  | Tuesday Fellowship  | 2.30 pm                        |
| Sat 13 | Vision Day (2)<br>Ventnor Hall  | 11.00 am – 1.00 pm             |
| SUN14  | Family Service<br>Led by the Men's Fellowship<br>Evening Worship<br>Rev Lynda Hulcoop         | 10.30 am<br>6.30 pm            |
| Mon 15 | BB Company Service  | 7.00 pm                        |
| Tue 16 | Soup, Sandwiches & Prayer<br>The Manse  | 12 noon                        |
| Wed 17 | Men's Fellowship – Minister's Evening   | 7.45 pm                        |
| Fri 19 | Eastbourne BB in halls  |                                |
| Sat 20 | Eastbourne BB in halls  |                                |
| SUN 21 | Family Service<br>Rev. Peter Elliott<br>Church Meeting<br>Evening Worship<br>Rev. Sue Chapman | 10.30 am<br>12 noon<br>6.30 pm |
| Tue 23 | Tuesday Fellowship<br>Rose Bateman  | 2.30 pm                        |

|        |   |          |
|--------|---|----------|
| SUN 28 | Family Service – Holy Communion<br>Rev Roger Wood                               | 10.30 am |
|        | Evening Worship – Holy Communion<br>Rev. Peter Elliott                          | 6.30 pm  |
| Mon 29 | Christian Book Club<br>“Elinor Olphant is Completely Fine”<br>(Frances Beecham) | 8.00 pm  |

## **NOVEMBER**

|       |   |          |
|-------|---|----------|
| SUN 4 | Family Service<br>Revs. Andrea & John Irvine            | 10.30 am |
|       | THE JUNCTION  | 6.30 pm  |
| Tue 6 | Tuesday Fellowship<br>Peter Gear                        | 2.30 pm  |
| Wed 7 | Andy Twilley – 8 Ways to Read & Study The Bible<br>Meal | 6.00 pm  |
|       | Learning Session  | 7.00 pm  |

|           |   |          |
|-----------|---|----------|
| SUNDAY 11 | <b>REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY</b><br>100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of World War I Armistice<br>BB Church Parade<br>Family Service | 10.30 am |
|           | Rev Sue Chapman<br>Evening Worship<br>Rev Lynda Hulcoop   | 6.30 pm  |
| Tue 13    | Soup Sandwiches & Prayer<br>The Manse   | 12 noon  |
| Thu 15    | Elders’ Meeting<br>The Manse  | 7.30 pm  |
| SUN 18    | Family Service  | 10.30 am |

Rev. Andy Twilley  
 Evening Worship 6.30 pm  
 Rev. Sue Chapman

**BB WEEK 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**

|        |  |                     |
|--------|--|---------------------|
| Tue 20 | Tuesday Fellowship<br>Rosemary Brice                   | 2.30 pm             |
| Wed 21 | Men's Fellowship – Music & Programme Planning          | 7.45 pm             |
| Sat 24 | BB COFFEE MORNING                                      | 10.30 am – 12.30 pm |
|        |  |                     |
| SUN 25 | Family Service – Holy Communion<br>Rev Sue Chapman     | 10.30 am            |
|        | Evening Worship – Holy Communion<br>Rev Peter Elliott  | 6.30 pm             |
| Mon 26 | Christian Book Club – Christmas Evening<br>(Chip Dunn) | 6.30 pm             |
| Tue 27 | Soup, Sandwiches & Prayer<br>The Manse                 | 12 noon             |
| Thu 29 | Christmas Fair preparations                            | 6.30 pm             |
| Fri 30 | Christmas Fair preparations                            | 12 noon onwards     |

**DECEMBER**

|       |   |                    |
|-------|---|--------------------|
| Sat 1 | CHRISTMAS FAIR  | 10.00 am - 1.00 pm |
|       |   |                    |
| SUN 2 | <b>FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT</b><br><b>Gifts around the Christmas Tree</b> |                    |
|       | Family Service<br>Jonathan Gravestock                                   | 10.30 am           |
|       | THE JUNCTION  | 6.30 pm            |
| Tue 4 | Tuesday Fellowship  | 2.30 pm            |

Ron Graves

\* \* N.B. Eastbourne BB will be camping in our halls 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> October. Please do not visit the halls during that time. Should you have to gain admittance during that time please contact the leaders by either phoning in advance or ringing the bell.

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 **DECEMBER + JANUARY** edition of the magazine should be handed in no later than **SUNDAY 18th NOVEMBER.**

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 OCTOBER**

7<sup>th</sup> No service at Central  
14<sup>th</sup> Pam Stringer – in memory of Andy  
21<sup>st</sup> Available  
28<sup>th</sup> Boys' Brigade

### **FLOWER ROTA FOR NOVEMBER**

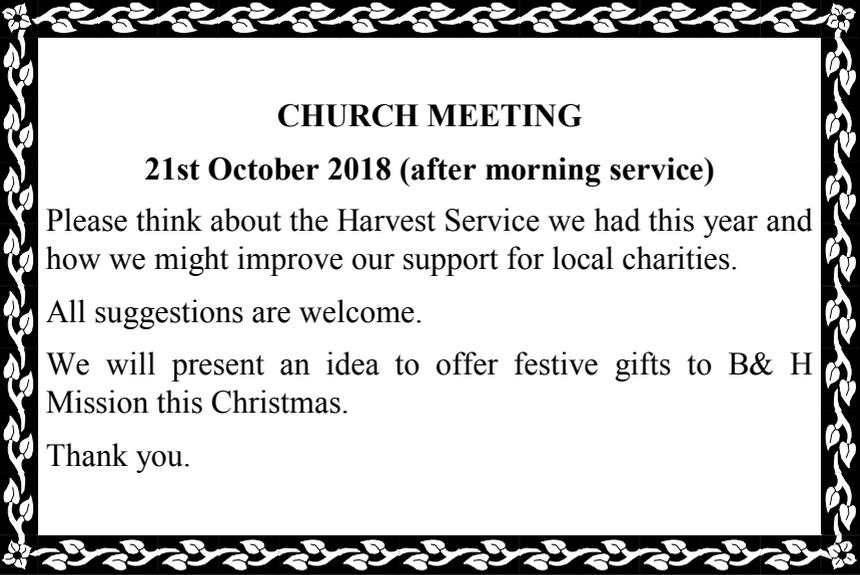
4<sup>th</sup> Available  
11<sup>th</sup> Pam & Alasdair Macaulay  
18<sup>th</sup> Pam Moody  
25<sup>th</sup> Keren Hancox – in memory of her father

**SUE'S FRIENDS FROM LUTON**



**VISIT CENTRAL**





## CHURCH MEETING

**21st October 2018 (after morning service)**

Please think about the Harvest Service we had this year and how we might improve our support for local charities.

All suggestions are welcome.

We will present an idea to offer festive gifts to B& H Mission this Christmas.

Thank you.

## REMINDER

### NOT TO BE MISSED

**Training Evening with the Synod Training & Development Officer, Andy Twilley, at Central URC**

**Session 2: 7th November 2018 at 18.00**

### **8 Models of engaging with The Bible**

Many folk have never been helped to properly engage with the Bible or have simply got into a rut of doing it one way and this has become boring and lacked inspiration.

**Come and take a fresh perspective.**

The meeting will begin at 18.00 with a pasta meal. Please book with Keren Hancox 01273 881348 if you require food.



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

Invite you to

**A COFFEE MORNING**

(in aid of BB Week)

**Saturday 24th November 2018**

**10.30 am - 12..30 pm**

**In**

**Ventnor Hall**

**We should also be pleased to welcome you to our  
Company Service 7.00 pm Monday 15th October  
in the Fellowship Room**

**MY THANKS**

Helen Brown would like to extend her deepest gratitude to everyone who made her 90th birthday party such a wonderful celebration.

Special thanks to Bill Maclean, Mark Beacham and Keren Hancox for all their help and support in arranging everything so beautifully.

## **CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB**

Who would have guessed it! We have reached double figures – age wise, that is. We are ten years old!

Carol Tyler, our wonderful and meticulous records keeper, informed us of this little known fact when she produced a birthday cake at our September meeting. This produced a flood of reminiscence about books we had liked/loathed/argued over and agreed to disagree about. One of our first books was *The Shack*, a raved about book in literary reviews and one which haunted us from charity shop book shelves in its dozens for the next two years. We have read books from the Bible, which we otherwise might not have ventured into and which shook up some of our childhood ideas, we have our “collections” of favourite Psalms, poems and Christmas readings and we have expanded our reading to genres which might have seemed daunting. Through it all we have shared ideas, discussed some very deep questions of life and morality and always listened to each other with respect whether we agreed or not. We have, generally, kept to the “rules” of finishing each book, somehow, and of not discussing it until we met on the club night. We have learned from and about each other. And the abiding memories are ones of laughter and friendship.

Our book choice for September was chosen to break us in easily after the summer holidays, prior to which we had rather stretched ourselves in our choices.

“Tears of the Giraffe” by Alexander McCall Smith transported us back to Botswana to the No.1 Ladies’ Detective Agency owned and run by Precious Ramotswe, Botswana’s only female detective.

If you are a fan of *The Bodyguard*, then this might not be the book for you, in fact its gentle, kind approach even makes *Miss Marple* episodes appear aggressive.

It is not that, in what might appear at first sight to be a backwater in Africa, there are not problems, there are many – even murder. The same questions of morality, a fast changing society, adultery, women’s rights, the economy and the care of orphans all appear in this book. But overridingly the tenor of the book is gentleness, kindness, consideration for others. There is a rhythm of Africa and Botswana, in particular, which quietly absorbs the reader. One of the aspects of life, which emerges, is consideration for others which means that life is not always black and white. Is it always wrong to tell a lie, even when the truth would shatter

and destroy several lives? Perhaps a half-truth is better.

Mma Makutsi is intelligent, hard-working, highly qualified – she got 97% in her final exams but because she wears glasses and is not “beautiful” she ends up working as a secretary in Mma Ramotswe’s detective agency because the larger firms cannot see beyond her outward appearance. A girl student leaves higher education because of the pressure to sleep with a tutor. A mother wants to know what has happened to her son, who disappeared ten years ago. Two orphans need a family and a home and the wonderful Mr JLB Matekoni finds himself adopting them without telling his fiancée and she absorbs all this and the future, not with anger but with a feeling that it is right.

Behind all this is the Africa of Botswana, where there is a correct way to shake hands or receive a gift. Where there is generosity and consideration and a sharing of income to make the economy work. Precious Ramotswe recognises the world is changing – not always for the best – as she keeps assuring us that “this is not Nigeria!”

The final page says it all. When the American woman asks why the giraffe give its tears, she is told. “ I suppose we can all give something. A giraffe has nothing else to give – only tears.”

And Precious sees a giraffe with its strange stilt borne body and its moist velvet cheeks and liquid eyes and thinks of all the beauty there was in Africa and of the laughter and the love. And hopes it’s true.

## **Christmas fair**

**Saturday 1st December 2018**

**10.00 am - 1.00 pm**

**Various stalls**

**Morning coffee/tea**

**Light lunches**

# GIFTS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

**SUNDAY 2nd DECEMBER**

This year we will be sending again our gifts to Fresh Start, which was the charity recommended to us by Brighton and Hove City Mission.

Last year 227 people received gifts through Fresh Start. (120 children from 0– 19 years. and 107 adults - 46 male , 61 female.

**Toys** and gifts are required for all ages including cuddly toys, painting and drawing sets including felt tip pens etc.

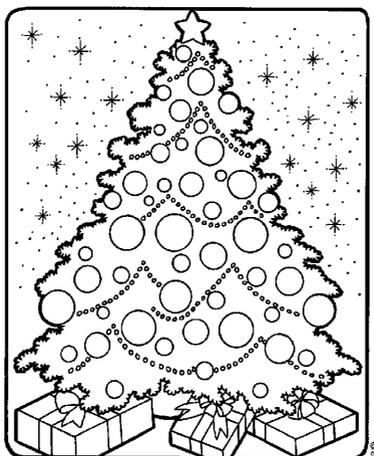
**Seasonal Gifts for Elderly Folk** : in addition so smellies writing sets, purses/wallets. scarves and socks

**Food** : Christmas food items eg., Christmas cakes/puddings, selection boxes, tins of sweets/biscuits/ shortbread,/ soup. Please ensure they have a best before date for AFTER Christmas.

**Toiletries:** seasonal smellies of all kinds including gift packs for both males and females - deodorants and shaving foam are particularly welcome.

## **Gift wrapping paper**

*Please remember it is policy only to distribute new toys to children.*



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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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**CENTRAL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HOVE**

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*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.