

Central United Reformed Church Hove



Good Newsletter

24th July 2020

Volume 1 Issue 2

New Life. New Hope.



**Daisy Anne Clarkson
Born 23rd June 2020**

FAMILY NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to Sam and Kim, Clarkson on the safe arrival of their daughter Daisy Ann Clarkson , who was born on 23rd June weighing 8 lb. 1 oz. Both mother and daughter are doing well. Big brother, Jack, is patiently waiting for her to be more useful and grow so she can play football with him! We surround all four of them with our love and prayers and wish them every blessing in the future.

There is a queue of people waiting to meet and hold her , so remember the two metre rule and be patient!

Molly Frazer is keeping well in her Abbeyfield home. We hear she is growing her own little church there. She started out watching “Songs of Praise” on television in lieu of regular church services at Central. She invited a friend in the home to join her and now there are SIX meeting every Sunday.

Betty Briggs, like so many, has had a lonely lockdown but with the easing of the rules and the “Bubble” rule has been visited by her daughter and is much happier.

Pam Macaulay is now back in her own home and is more content and comfortable. Please include Fiona and Kirsty in your prayers too.

Pam Moody is making good progress and increasingly is enjoying life, as you can see from the articles she has contributed to this newsletter.

Peter and Celia Elliott continue to enjoy the fresh air on the front, when social distancing is possible.

Roger and Kim Wood are both keeping well. Kim says that Roger is kept very busy with Zoom Meetings!

CONGRATULATIONS and best wishes to Ruth Scott, Keren’s Mum, who celebrated her 99th birthday on 14th July - only one more year to go to the Big 00!

CONGRATULATIONS to Elinor and Alec Vaughan for raising £3950 for Off The Fence by a sponsored walk.

THANK YOU to Carol & Adam Gill who have brightened the outside of the church building by replanting the pots with lavender and flowers and by Adam painting the handrails and gate.

THANK YOU to Ann Austen and Keren Hancox who have raised over £200 for church funds by selling cakes to order. If you haven’t discovered the joys of baking during lockdown, may we recommend enjoying the skills of Ann or Keren.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Liz, Carl, Kayleigh and Megan Jukes on the death of Liz’s mother. We surround them with our love and prayers and hope they will find comfort from these.

The New “Normal”



Pam Stringer taking Peter Gear to a hospital appointment

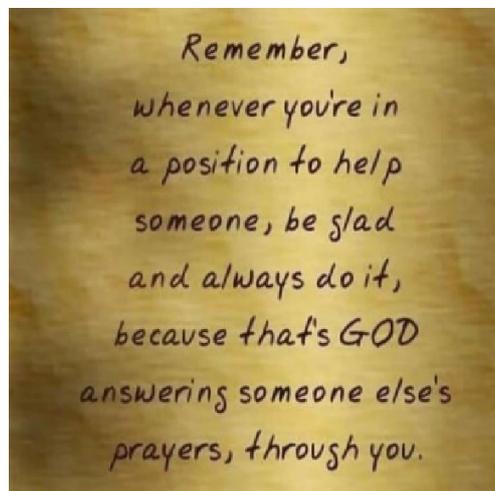
DO WHAT YOU CAN!

One of the things that people have been sharing over lock-down is that they have appreciated the “small things” of life; the bird song, the sunshine, the garden, brimming with colour and life, a regular walk. We are all doing what we can to support people; hearing a familiar voice on the phone, a regular “meeting” to lift the spirits, a letter or card, (not just for a birthday or an anniversary) or a small token. People are leaving food, flowers and many other things, on the doorstep to encourage people to know that they important, even in our current, restricted state. I know many of you have been doing what you can to support others.

I love the way that God surprises us with small things. Matthew 25 v 40 says, “*Truly, as you did it to one of the least, you did it for me.*”. Why not read from verse 31 to inspire you. We all can do “a small thing” for someone else. Even staying a home is something we can do, and it is making a huge difference. Don’t underestimate your ability to do small things for people. They all count, and they all show how God is supporting and sustaining us, each day.

Sue X

Loving God, you are in the small things of life. Each cell of activity is an expression of our love and care; a reflection of your love for us. Thank you. Amen



UPDATE FROM THE ELDERS

Since lockdown started the Elders, Pastoral Group leaders and Sue have been keeping in touch with all at Central via the telephone and services. There have been opportunities to worship together through the weekly services that Sue has written. Also there have been several online Junction Services and the opportunity to take part in Sunday morning worship with Hove Methodists. Those without internet can participate via a telephone call. If you would like further details about how to access this, please ask either your Pastoral Group leader or any of the Elders.

The Elders have had two meetings to date looking at how to move forward with reopening the Church buildings. They will continue to meet fortnightly to discuss the latest guidance from the Government and the Synod. They are currently working through completing the Risk Assessment form and considering the contents of the “Emerging into the New Normal” document. Please pray for wisdom as plans are put into place.

If you have any concerns or suggestions, please share them with the Elders, Sue or your pastoral group leaders.

The documents mentioned above can be found at <https://urc.org.uk/coronavirus.html> alongside other relevant materials.

We are pleased that both Chris Hill and Tony Clark have been elected to the Eldership and thank them for agreeing to serve.

Keren



A MEMORY OF D DAY



My memory is not of the actual day itself but of several weeks before.

I arrived home from school one afternoon and found the whole of the south side of my street filled with Bren Gun Carriers and light armoured vehicles, crewed by Canadian soldiers.

They were there for several days and lived in their vehicles the residents let them use their houses for washing and toilet facilities. I made friends with two of the crew of the carrier parked opposite my house. They were Chuck and Elmer. They used to save the cards from their cigarette packages for me and I also got the occasional piece of chocolate.

Each day I would rush home from school to see them and would be greeted by the words, "Hey, kiddo, how yer doing." One day, as I turned into my street, I found to my horror it was empty. They had gone and I didn't get a chance to say goodbye.

A week or so later we heard the news about the invasion of France and realised they had been part of the invasion force.

I often think about Chuck and Elmer and wonder if they made it to the end of the war and were able to return home to Canada.

Pete Gear

The Lockdown has enabled many of us to cherish our gardens, however small, and the fruits of our labours



Pam Moody grew masses of sweet peas in a pot on her balcony and even gave some away.



Peter Gear's rose bush flourished.



Carol Tyler's garden was an oasis of beauty and tranquility.

AND NATURE FLOURISHED TOO

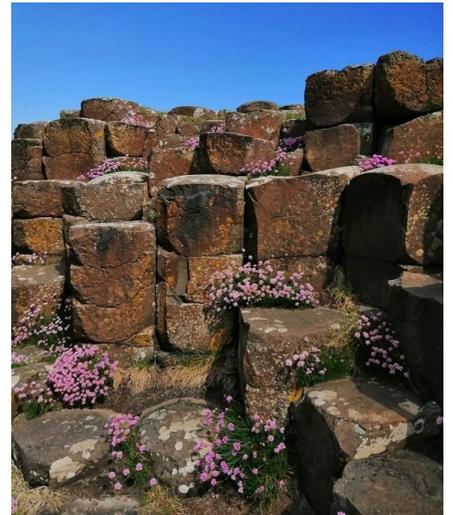
Hedgehogs found a home



Bees worked overtime



Flowers Bloomed again at the Giants' Causeway



Deer in Durrington Cemetery

Thank you to Pam Moody, John Brice, Patricia Rees and Pam Stringer for sharing these special moments.

LIMERICKS

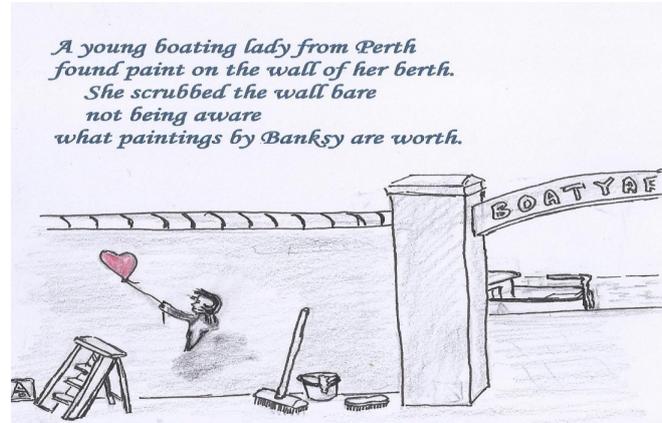
In the last Newsletter I issued a challenge to write a Limerick. Three people rose to the occasion. Their offerings are below. Your turn next?

There are folk who are living alone,
Boris says, "needn't stick to the phone."
They can form a small bubble –
Just one, or there's trouble!
But they're no longer all on their own.

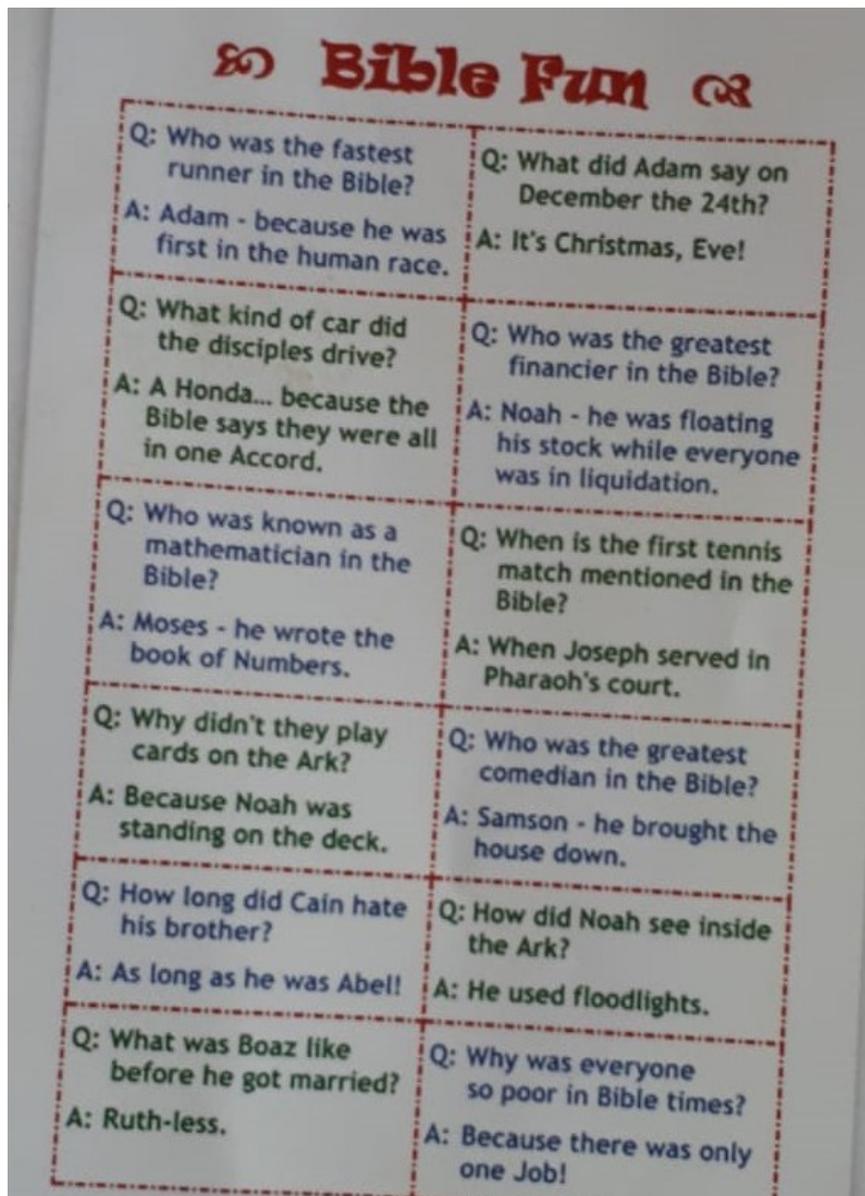
Chip Dunn

There once was a lady of Hove,
To inform us she constantly strove.
Her stories were good:
She wrote news as she should...
But she's really best known for her brogue!

P.M.M.



Tony Clark



CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB

Regretfully, we haven't been able to meet since February because of the Covid 19 pandemic, and we have really missed the fun, friendship and stimulus of our meetings. Cocooning has not diminished our love of reading and books have provided a welcome distraction.

We would like to offer you some suggestions based on our recent readings.

On 1st April I emerged from the befuddlement of surgery to the reality of 11 days in hospital with no visitors.

What I needed was unchallenging reading, familiarity, a story which evolved effortlessly to a satisfactory conclusion; a theme that encouraged positive thinking and one which expressed the joy of human contact.

All were provided by Alastair McCall Smith's 21st book in Botswana, The No.1 Lady Detective series – THE COLOUR OF ALL THE CATTLE.

This novel includes mystery, detection, evil influences and human frailty, but hope, and well being come from the empathy, kindness and loving care that surrounds the protagonists.

Most important, for me, were the short chapters, which meant that, sometimes at least, I could complete one without falling asleep.

P.M.M.

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I read this book recently and can thoroughly recommend it.

WASHINGTON BLACK by Esi Edugyan.

Newly arrived in the Caribbean in 1830, Titch asks his brother for the loan of a slave assistant for his project – an air balloon – that he plans to launch from a peak overlooking the plantation.

Washington is chosen because he is the right weight for ballast.

Soon Titch learns that Washington is very bright and a good illustrator, a bond forms between them, which leads them away from the Caribbean to many different countries.

This is a moving story, hovering between freedom and slavery. Perhaps something quite apt when the current emphasis is on Black Lives Matter.

Sue Tongue

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A birthday present from my sister-in-law has sparked a summer of reading books by a local author whose pen name is Elly Griffiths.

Dr. RUTH GALLOWAY MYSTERIES are set on the bleak north Norfolk coast. So far there are 12 books in this series.

Also by the same author are THE BRIGHTON MYSTERIES with MEPHISTO.

These are set in many local sites, mostly around Fiveways and the sea front.

All are easily obtained from Ebay.

* Colin enjoyed the Brighton ones more than those set in Norfolk.

Keren Hancox

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It is a long time since I read an "Aga Saga" but the restraints of lock down drove me to try Joanna Trollope's latest offering "Mum & Dad". What a disappointment! What should/could have been an interesting theme of a family struggling to come to terms with parents growing older was written so superficially with characters briefly sketched and the tale being so predictable that it lacked tension and empathy. It was a book, which was churned out rather than written.

In contrast Claire Calman's first novel "GROWING UP FOR BEGINNERS" was a fascinating read in which I could become totally involved with the characters and their stories. So much so that I had to put it aside occasionally because I was mentally and, on one occasion, orally shouting at one of the characters. And that is the chief thing about the people in the book. They are believable. They are recognisable as real – we know or are

aware of people like that, even the minor ones. If some of the coincidences appear to be a little twisted or far fetched, that is because they are coincidences.

This book is fresh, paced and I look forward to reading her next one. *Rosemary Brice*

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And finally: For Film Buffs:

PRAYING THE MOVIES by Edward McNulty

Daily Meditations from Classic Films

The author takes a scene from a film, links it to a couple of scripture passages and helps us to see the scene demonstrate a spiritual theme or practice.

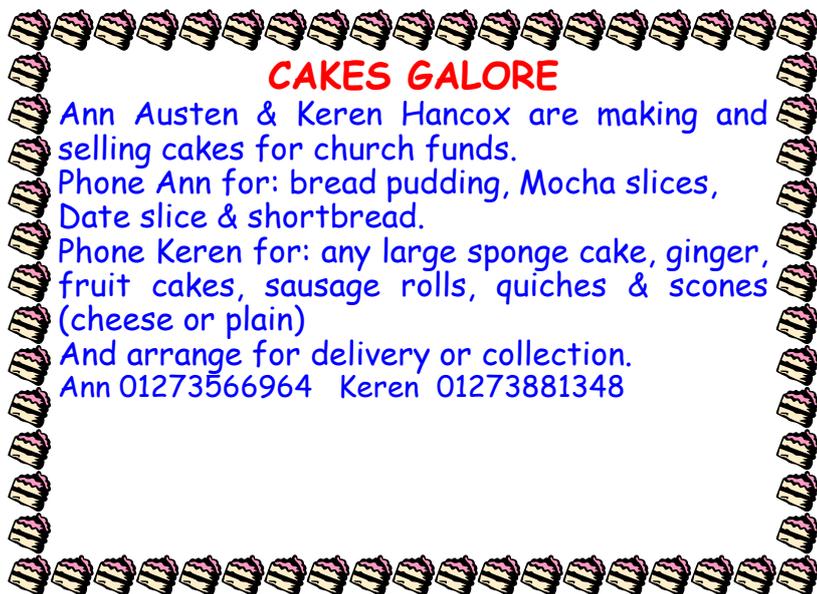
There are questions to work through to help us understand better and to apply new insights to our lives.

A sample chapter is headed "Waters of Mercy".

Ps 42 "My soul thirsts for God" Exodus 17 .6 "Strike the rock and water will come out of it, so the people may drink."

From "Schindler's List" we see a trainload of Jews bound for an extermination camp, parched in the terrible heat, crying out for water. The nazi officers pay no heed but Schindler gets soldiers to drench the trucks with water from a fire hose. Schindler could not release these prisoners but he offered what he could.

There are 31 film selections. If you have finished your own daily Bible readings/study, how about this?



CAKES GALORE

Ann Austen & Keren Hancox are making and selling cakes for church funds.
 Phone Ann for: bread pudding, Mocha slices, Date slice & shortbread.
 Phone Keren for: any large sponge cake, ginger, fruit cakes, sausage rolls, quiches & scones (cheese or plain)
 And arrange for delivery or collection.
 Ann 01273566964 Keren 01273881348

Winter Exercise program...



Take one Weetbix.
 Take an Aero chocolate bar.
 Crumble the Aero over the Weetbix.
 Voila!

AEROBIX !

Whilst we cannot visit friends and family who are not so well in hospital, in residential care, or in their homes, we remember them in our thoughts and prayers . Please know you are not forgotten.

The Newsletter is a way of trying to share friendship and fellowship with all in Central. We need your good news, your funny moments, your laughter and your joy. So please send notes, photos of your baking successes or failures, your garden , something which has moved you and you would normally tell us over a cup of coffee . To rosemarybrice@yahoo.co.uk. Remember we are not isolating: we are merely cocooning and one day we will emerge and meet again.