

150 Years of Worship and Outreach

Central United Reformed Church Hove



October 2013

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

<i>Sunday Youth Ministry</i>	Mrs. A. Austen Mrs C. Vaughan
<i>Boys' Brigade</i> (Mondays)	Mr. C. Jukes
<i>Girls' Club</i> (Tuesday)	Mrs. S. Hill
<i>Tuesday Fellowship</i> (Alternate Tuesdays)	Mrs Celia Baines – Holmes
<i>Men's Fellowship</i> (Third Wednesday)	Mr. P. Gear
<i>Welcome Break</i> (Wednesdays)	Mrs. P. Macaulay
<i>Bluebird Parent & under 3s Group</i>	Mrs K. Hancox
Church Web Site	Mr John Brewster

Church Hall Tel: 01273 734162
Email: info@centralurchove.com

Dear Friends,

I'm pleased to report, this harvest-time, that my potatoes, strawberries, apples and courgettes have done well. I was particularly pleased about the courgettes, as I had raised them from seeds. There's nothing quite like planting seeds in some earth and, after lots of waiting and watering, seeing the little shoots break through. After planting out, they really thrived and produced lots of lovely courgettes. There's nothing quite like eating food that you have grown yourself; and food definitely tastes better when it's still alive.

What really pleases me, though, is that we are not dependent on the garden for our food. It's been a strange summer for weather, and not everything has thrived. But that's OK because we can just buy food in the shops and not starve. The trouble with this is that it masks us from the truth that we *are* dependent on the soil, the rain and the sun for our food. Life is precarious, but our relative wealth and the purchasing power of the supermarkets cushion us from that sense of living at the edge and we don't have to worry about it.

The rise of food banks in this country is beginning to give the lie to this complacency. The City Mission's Basics Bank does excellent work in helping our neighbours who can't afford enough food and other basic needs. It's good that our churches support it through the year, and especially at our Harvest Festivals.

But what about the wider picture? What about hungry people in other parts of the world? What about the agricultural land that is turning into desert? What about the soil that is being exhausted and eroded because of intensive farming? Intensive farming is less productive than traditional approaches, and uses a huge amount of oil. In modern farming, ten calories of fossil-fuel energy are used to produce one calorie of food energy on the supermarket shelf. Then what about the changing climate and the adverse effect on farming of more frequent droughts and floods?

We are dependent on the soil, the rain, the sun and the air. As we give thanks to God for the harvest and as we thank him for each

meal, let us remember that dependence, and the interdependence we share with our brothers and sisters around the world. Let us not give thanks while contributing to the spoiling of God's world or to the hunger of our brothers and sisters. We need to do more than give a bag of pasta to the Basics Bank, good though that is. We need to change how we live, so that our thankfulness to God might be accompanied by generosity, grace and care for the world God loves.

Alex Mabbs.

**Church Diaries £2 and Calendars £1.50 for 2014
are now available
from Keren Hancox.**

FAMILY NEWS FROM CENTRAL

September began with a very positive feeling. Not only were the various organisations of the church re-starting but we, as a congregation, were happy to welcome **Eric Song** and **Zac Mabbs** into full membership of the church. It is always uplifting to witness two young men prepared to affirm their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord. Eric was admitted into membership at the morning service before Holy Communion. It was a pleasure to meet and greet his family, who had come along to support him at this important moment. The sun shone in through the windows and added to the warmth of our welcome.



Eric Song & family

Unfortunately for Zac, the weather changed during the afternoon. He had chosen to have full adult baptism in the sea before being admitted as a member. A sizeable crowd of family, friends from all three churches in the pastorate, BB Officers, and his friends from college and elsewhere gathered on the seafront near Hove Lagoon to witness Zac, with his father, Alex, brave the biting wind, enter the sea and be baptised. The breakers were so high that one suspects he was really wet before Alex immersed him. After that, still dripping, Zac made his Confession of Faith and was welcomed as a member. (A video of the service and everything that is on the Church website.)

Zac has departed Hove to go to university “Up North.” We wish him well in his studies and in this new phase of his life and assure him that his friends in Central will not forget him but will continue to hold him in prayer.



Zac makes his affirmation of faith

Eric continues to worship quietly and regularly with us. He tends to sit towards the back of the church, if you would like to welcome him. We are pleased that he has made this considered decision to join our fellowship. He, too, is assured of our constant prayerful support and friendship.

We give our good wishes to all our young people who are starting university, college or work and pray for God's guidance and strength as they take their first steps in to a different lifestyle.

There was a warm welcome for **Dale Marland** when he ventured back to church one Sunday in September. Apparently, he was even more delighted to be back worshipping with us! Dale is still not feeling "Fantastic" but it is a start and we pray that he will soon be well enough to attend more regularly, as was his wont.

Welcome Break had its first summer holiday since its inception and closed during the month of August. It is now open for business once more and judging by the buzz there on Wednesday, "absence did make the heart grow fonder." Its regulars are delighted it's back.

The summer was not without its moments of sadness and bereavement – three families lost loved ones. **Julie Gale's** father died in July; **Carol and Adam Gill** lost their dearly loved daughter, **Josie**, and **Stephen Gledhill's** grandfather also died. Expected or unexpected, death leaves aching hearts and empty spaces in family lives. Our sincere sympathy,

love and prayers surround these dear friends and all their family circle. May they find comfort and strength as we uphold them before our Heavenly Father, Who shares their pain.

Frances Beacham has been given the all clear and doctors are pleased with the results of her operation. **Keith Austen** is home and making slow but steady progress. **Celia Baines-Holmes** has started her chemotherapy treatment and we will hold her in prayer as she goes through its rigours.

Peggy McMillen has experienced the NHS at its best when she was admitted quickly to hospital and had a pacemaker for her heart fitted. She is now home and looking forward to seeing her daughter Karen, who is flying over from Germany to look after her. Peggy may be somewhat shocked and bruised but is amazed by the speed of it all and recovering well. Please pray that she may continue to do so.

The Service of Thanksgiving for the 107 years of service of 1st Hove Girls' Brigade Company saw the return of some girls and officers who had once been members of the Company. There were some moments of nostalgia as a slide display of photographs of camps, displays, awards, pantomimes and characters was shown on the walls. These elicited smiles, grins, gasps of horror (at once fashionable hairstyles) and outright laughter.

One of the most moving moments came when the Staff and helpers were called to the front of the church and stood there with over 370 years of service represented in total. A massive achievement, which merits our deep gratitude for the work and time, they have given unstintingly to girls.

So, THANK YOU: Suzanne Hill, Ann Austen, Julie Gale, Doreen Fookes, Jill Humphrey, Doreen Page, Chip Dunn, Pam Moody, Carol Wickens, Janette King, Keren Hancox, Kate Stoner and Brian Teggart.

The new **Girls' Club** has made a successful start on Tuesday evenings with good numbers of former GB girls attending.

“Lord, we pray for your blessing on the New Girls' Club, on its leaders, who will teach and on the girls who will continue to learn about Jesus. We pray that they will grow in faith and love of You.”

The **Boys' Brigade** continues steadfastly and would appreciate your support and prayers as it embarks on its new session, which promises to be an extremely busy one.

The poet, Robert Frost once wrote, "Good fences make good neighbours." At Central this summer we learned that cupcakes are a more delicious way of neighbourliness. Our next door neighbours, Sam and Lucy, asked if they might borrow some tables and chairs for their wedding party. In return, after the morning service, they supplied us with a large box of red velvet cupcakes to enjoy with our after-service coffee and also made a welcome donation to church funds. The cupcakes made a wonderful change from biscuits.



Naughty but Nice



Fellowship of Prayer: *John and Elsie Flack, Tebello Sibanda, Clive and Shirley Hamblin, Celia Baines- Holmes and John Gilson. .*

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

The new session got off to a good start on 9th September with a good number of Boys in all three sections.

We have already begun rehearsals for our Old Time Music Hall, which we will be staging in the New Year. It may seem to be early but in fact there are only about 13 Monday nights before the show!

Next month, November, will see us busy with BB Week and a Coffee Morning. We look forward to your support.

We are always open to welcoming new recruits, so, if you know any boys, who might like to join us, encourage them to come along on a Monday evening.



REFORM

Reform is the official magazine of the URC but it has readers from all Christian denominations. It contains news and articles exploring theology, personal faith and Christian views on social and current affairs. It includes contributions from journalists, politicians, campaigners, scientists and Christian leaders.

The annual subscription is £25 for 10 issues. If you would like to subscribe to the magazine, please see Jenny Flint as soon as possible.

Charlie Steel

Warmly invites you

A COFFEE MORNING

12th OCTOBER at 10.00 AM

In

THE VENTNOR HALL



So you thought the Moon was made of Cheese!

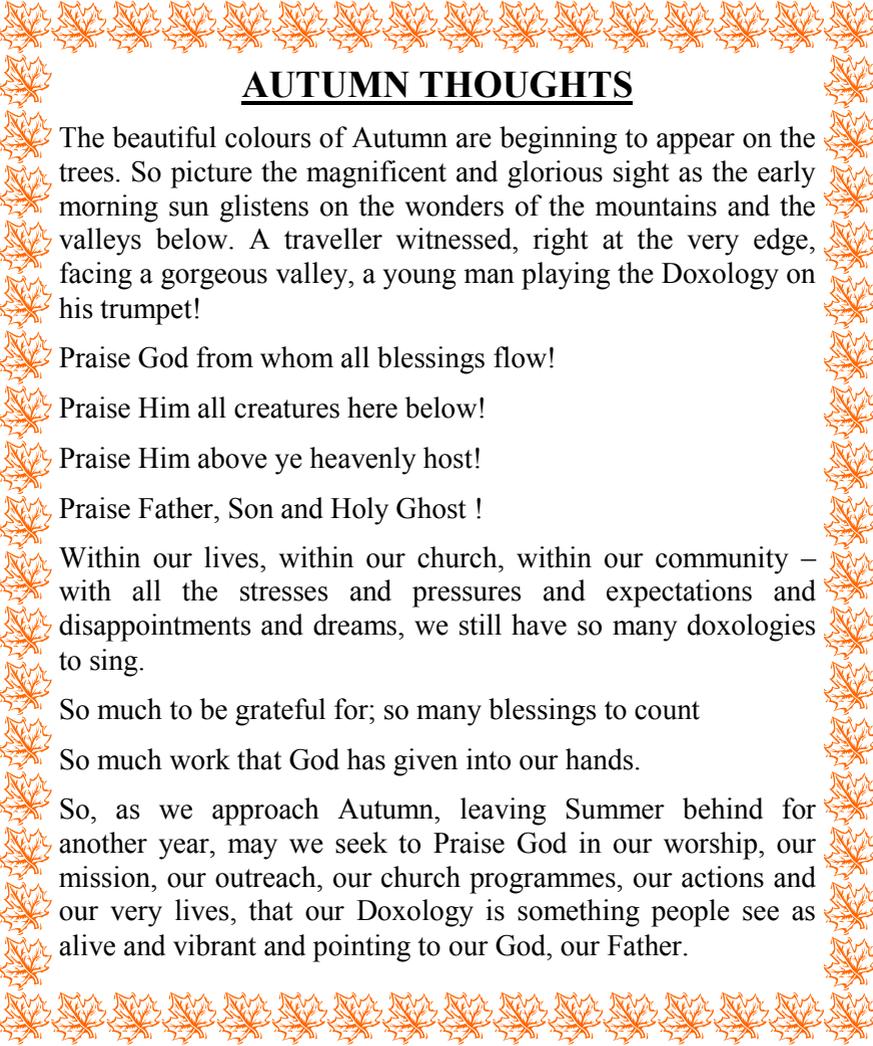
The Moon in late August was amazing - big, round, near and glorious!

The moon was a *blue moon*. August's full moon, which rose on Tuesday (Aug. 20), was not just a Blue Moon — it was also the Full Sturgeon Moon, the Full Red Moon, the Green Corn Moon and the Grain Moon.

It qualified as a Blue Moon because it's the third full moon in a season with four (most seasons have only three). Historically, there have been two different definitions of a Blue Moon.

Technically, a Blue Moon is the third full moon in a four-full-moon season. However, a 1946 article in "Sky & Telescope" magazine mistakenly defined it as the second full moon in a single month (since most months have only one full moon), and the definition stuck. Because August had just this one full moon, it wouldn't meet the mistaken, though commonly used, definition, though it does qualify as a technical Blue Moon. [[10 Surprising Moon Facts](#)]

Isn't God wonderful.



AUTUMN THOUGHTS

The beautiful colours of Autumn are beginning to appear on the trees. So picture the magnificent and glorious sight as the early morning sun glistens on the wonders of the mountains and the valleys below. A traveller witnessed, right at the very edge, facing a gorgeous valley, a young man playing the Doxology on his trumpet!

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Praise Him all creatures here below!

Praise Him above ye heavenly host!

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost !

Within our lives, within our church, within our community – with all the stresses and pressures and expectations and disappointments and dreams, we still have so many doxologies to sing.

So much to be grateful for; so many blessings to count

So much work that God has given into our hands.

So, as we approach Autumn, leaving Summer behind for another year, may we seek to Praise God in our worship, our mission, our outreach, our church programmes, our actions and our very lives, that our Doxology is something people see as alive and vibrant and pointing to our God, our Father.

**CHRIST SENDS US OUT
TO BRING OTHERS IN**

CHURCH CALENDAR

OCTOBER

SUN 6	Family Service – Holy Communion Rev. Alex Mabbs	10.30 am
	Evening Worship – The Junction	6.30 pm
Mon 7	Ladies’ Prayer Group	8.00 pm
Tue 8	Joint Elders’ Meeting Portslade URC	7.30 pm
Sat 12	Bookstall Coffee Morning	10.00 am
SUN 13	Family Service Rev Peter Elliott	10.30 am
	Evening Worship Hard Work & Discipline (Colossians 1. V. 24 – 2 v. 3) Rev Roger Wood	6.30 pm
Tue 15	Tuesday Fellowship – Pam Riding It out Cycling round the World	2.30 pm
Wed 16	Men’s Fellowship – Skittles Evening The Royal Oak , Barcombe	7.00 pm
SUN 20	Family Service Rev. Roger Wood	10.30 am
	Evening Worship Freedom in Christ (Colossians 2 vv 6-23) Rev. Alex Mabbs	6.30 pm
SUN 27	Family Service - Parade Rev Roger Wood	10.30 am
	Evening Worship – Holy Communion Rev Lynda Hulcoop	6.30 pm
Mon 28	Book Club The Robe by Lloyd Douglas Location TBA	8.00 pm
Tue 29	Tuesday Fellowship – David Porter Life above a Railway Tunnel	2.30 pm

NOVEMBER

SUN 3	Family Service – Holy Communion	10.30 am
	Rev Roger Wood	
	Evening Worship – The Junction	6.30 pm

- All contributions for the **NOVEMBER** edition of the magazine must be handed in no later than **SUNDAY 20th OCTOBER.**
- Please inform Mrs Sheena Ireland by Wednesday of the preceding week of any calendar changes so that the calendar on the Order of Service may be altered.



FLOWERS FOR OCTOBER

- 6th Ruth Shepherd
- 13th Pam Stringer – in memory of her husband, Andy
- 20th Peggy McMillen – in memory of her husband, Hugh
- 27th The Boys' Brigade

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

(with 1st Hove Girls' Brigade Company)

we were delighted to present a Gold award brooch to Martha Sacrée on her return from a summer spent working with Camp America.

Martha had completed most sections of the award before starting university in September 2011. For the **Skills** section she did singing; for **Physical**, her choice was Dancing; and the **Volunteering** requirement was covered by her service to the Explorer Section, having completed two District Young Leaders Training Weekend courses. Her **Practice Expedition** was in Snowdonia, where it snowed! This was followed by the **Assessment Expedition** in the Lake District, where it rained!

The final **Residential Section** was undertaken at a school in Ghana, where Martha spent two weeks involved in teaching, child care and building work. The assessor's report praised Martha's commitment, initiative, empathy and team work.

The eventual receipt of these very favourable comments enabled Martha to claim her Gold. Congratulations, Martha, on your perseverance and determination to complete the course.

We hope that both Martha and Abigail Sarjudeen, whose Gold Award was reported in the last magazine, will have a great experience when they go to St James' Palace on Thursday, 10th October, to receive their Gold certificates, hopefully, from Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh himself.



Martha receives her Duke of Edinburgh Badge from Pam Moody

Summer in Central



Former GB Members
At Thanksgiving
Service

A last chat among GB staff after
the service.



Patricia and Liam Glasspool on their
wedding day.

The following letter was written by Peter Elliott in July but somewhere in the airwaves between Kingsway and Langdale Gardens it got lost in the ether. So, we are happy to publish it now.

Dear Friends,

At Easter this year I was surprised to see the URC being quoted (along with a few other churches) in a headline story of the BBC News. For our size as a denomination, we do sometimes find ourselves punching above our weight, and it's good to get a mention occasionally. The article was entitled "The lies we tell ourselves: ending comfortable myths about poverty." For example, the received wisdom would have us believe that welfare claimants abuse the system by having more children than average to get child benefit and extra housing allowance. The one minor problem with that is that only about 8% of families who claim benefits have 3 or more children, which also just happens to be roughly the percentage of society as a whole. If the accepted wisdom of many claimants abusing the system in this way was true, welfare claimants would simply have to have more children! Somehow, appalling cases like Mick Philpott, who was convicted of murdering 5 of his children, are often seen as an example of the welfare norm, rather than the horrendous exception that they are. Few would agree that the mass murderer Dr Harold Shipman proves all GP's are mass murderers, but somehow when it comes to the poor, unlike respected doctors, sweeping and often quite unfounded generalisation seem quite acceptable.

Another myth is that the welfare budget is out of control, and the deficit is at least partly the fault of welfare claimants. Unfortunately the proportion of our tax bills spent on welfare has remained roughly stable for the last 20 years and, mainly due to an aging population, pensions now make over half of this cost. Yes, there are real problems with the national budget and at some stage deficits have to be reduced. But demonising one part of society, a part where 3.6 million children live in poverty, does little to sort the very real problems that exist. To quote the report, "The Bible is clear in its warnings about injustice. The prophet Micah warns that when privileged people oppress those at the bottom of the pile, society will fail. Likewise the prophet Isaiah warns that without truth there cannot be justice and righteousness in society. At our last "Junction" Alex highlighted the plight of the world's poor, having in mind the approaching G8 Summit. I am pleased that our national church is part of the prophetic tradition of naming uncomfortable truths to the powerful. Not to be annoying or anti-establishment, but so that society

can be transformed into something more truly just and a reflection (ever so hesitantly) of God's in-breaking kingdom. And I am proud that our local church here at Central, small though we are also, has a heart for the poor locally and in the world at large. Peter E.

<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/truthandliesaboutpoverty/> if you want to find out more.

JOSH MABBS' TRIP FUNDRAISING UPDATE

So far Joshua has now raised approximately:

£60 through odd jobs

£780 in generous donations from the Rotary Club and several private individuals

£110 from his paper-round

£13 Tanzania Mania Quilt* (should raise £1000)

So around £1160 of £4000

Tanzania Mania Quilt – a chance to win a King Size designer quilt!

Louise is donating her time to make a quilt with 1,000 patches in it. People are being asked to donate £1 per square (you can buy as many as you like for different family members) plus a 6" square of patterned cotton fabric per patch or another £1 donation to cover the cost of the material if Louise provides it.

The first £1 from each patch will be the £1,000 for Joshua's trip, the second part is to cover the fabrics (any surplus in money will also be donated to Joshua's fund). We sold several patches at the Festival of Quilts and people further afield also paid 50p or an SAE to get a copy of the postcard, which will be printed of the finished quilt. One contributor will win the final quilt, which is likely to be based loosely on the Tanzanian flag design.

Please see the posters on the church noticeboards and Louise or Josh for more information

St Cuthbert's Housing Association

Flat Available

Wray House, Lyndhurst Road, Hove

One of our flats has become vacant and will be available for occupancy in approximately one month. These apartments are for **single occupancy only** and are ideally suitable as a starter home, with the idea of moving on within two years. If you are interested or know of someone who might be and would like more details please contact:-

The Secretary
St Cuthbert's Housing Association
Church Office
Central United Reformed Church
Ventnor Villas
Hove BN3 3YF

If more than one application is received the Management Committee will decide who should be offered tenancy and their decision will be final.

CURRY NIGHT REPORT

Over 30 people from all 3 churches met at Hounsom in July to hear Jenny Davies talk about her life teaching missionary children in Pakistan. This enables their parents to work in the local environment and help build local Christian communities. All challenging jobs in a challenging climate. It was a fascinating insight into a different culture and worldview.

Carol Callingham-Woods braved the Burka/Chador challenge, just a few moments of wearing one on a hot day and bumping into objects on her short walk proved how difficult it is for the women who have to wear them all the time.

Alex adapted a medium curry from the Eswatani range from the Fairtrade stall for the vegetarian option. We had a lovely chicken korma for meat eaters and quiche for the curry phobic amongst us.

We raised well over £100 for Jenny's work on top of the food expenses.

If any one missed the talk but would like some information about Operation Mobilisation or Jenny's work please ask Alex or Louise .

FAIRTRADE MATTERS

New catalogues - I have had my preview copies for Christmas already & so will be ordering customer copies soon. It feels terrible saying that in August, but some lines will sell out quickly & it's always difficult to predict which in advance! If anyone would like their catalogues when I get them, please let me know, otherwise I will be handing them out around the end of September

Stock – I have quite a lot of new gift items available now and some bargain bits from one of the previews earlier in the year. I will add more as I pay off other bills along side the regular food orders.

Our annual **Fairtrade Christmas Fair** at Hounsom will be on 11th - 16th November. Please book it in your diary. It's a great opportunity to see all our stock & engage with the local community in Hangleton. Once again offers of help (mostly just keeping me company & making the odd coffee) will be greatly appreciated. Hopefully everyone who helped last time has had their 'thank you' jute angel by now (I'm afraid I mislaid some of the letters till recently!). Help delivering invitations to the Fair & Christmas services is also needed. We delivered around 2,500 last year, resulting noticeably in the busier fair & some new faces at events, but I ended up delivering $\frac{3}{4}$ of them - trying to fit it around snow & rain showers and my other commitments. While I anticipate delivering less this time, more helpers would achieve the job more successfully

The theme for this years event is **Three Wise Men** (they're not called 'Kings' in Bible translations) so if you have any pictures or decorations on this theme, please can we borrow them. I hope to invite 3 wise men from our communities to have a question & answer session on issues of life & faith one of the evenings (serious & humorous questions invited)... watch this space for who & when!

Louise Mabbs

Committee - a body that keeps minutes and wastes time.

Yawn - an opinion honestly expressed.

Tomorrow - one of the greatest labour saving devices of today.

YOUR LETTERS

I would like to thank everyone for their cards, prayers, flowers and wishes following my recent operation and recovery.

I am feeling very well and will hopefully get the all clear later this month.

With love,

Frances

* * * * *

I would like to thank everyone for the cards and messages received after my Dad passed away in July. It was very kind and thoughtful and certainly helped me to get through what was a difficult time for all of us.

I would also like to thank the family of Central United Reformed Church for the gift I received in appreciation of my service in the Girls' Brigade.

I certainly enjoyed my time working with many girls over the years. Even at the age I am now, I know, if it were not for Girls' Brigade, when I was a girl, I would not be the person I am now.

I shall miss the fun and friendship very much.

Much love,

Julie Gale

* * * * *

Dear Central URC,

Thank you very much for the lovely bunch of flowers I received from Jill Humphrey, following the Service of Thanksgiving for the work of the 1st Hove Company of the Girls' Brigade at Central. They brightened up my sitting room and it was fitting that the flowers were Girls' Brigade colours.

Thank you also for the gift that was given to me during the service on 15th September. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to have worked with both the girls and the Staff for the past 30 years.

I am sad that Central no longer has a Girls' Brigade Company, but wish the new club every success.

With best wishes to you all,

Chip Dunn.

CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB

“Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”

(Hebrews 11. V.1)

Perhaps some might find this a strange quotation with which to introduce the Book Club’s holiday reading of “The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry” but it is apposite in many ways, not in the sense of faith in a religious sense but of faith in achieving a goal.

This is a book, which reminded us of “Pilgrim’s Progress,” which we had read earlier in the year and it also had some of the flavour of “Canterbury Tales” as we met some of the characters with whom Harold made an acquaintance along the way. There are all kinds of religious parallels to be made, although that was not, perhaps the author’s intention.

This was an easy read if not a comfortable one. Everyone at our September meeting had liked the book, even if they had not enjoyed all of it. With some it touched a nerve or remembrance of past regrets; others, more prosaically, had had to reach for the road atlas to trace Harold’s journey. But this could be regarded as a compliment to the author’s writing which made it all seem probable.

Certainly, we enjoyed the easy flowing style of writing and, even when the pace seemed to lessen and we felt we were struggling a little, we realised that this was deliberately done by the author to represent Harold (and us) being burdened by belongings, people and the trappings of the modern world, especially the media.

This is a book partly about relationships and misunderstandings, about generosity and kindness. A book which draws you in and involves you in the stories not only of the main characters but of the seemingly minor ones, who make a massive impact on another’s life. It also showed how cynical we can become, when we misunderstood/ misinterpreted the relationships and intentions of some of the characters, suspecting something wrong when the opposite was the case. There is always a surprising twist to the tales.

We liked the book because we could identify with and recognised so many of the characters, the descriptions of the countryside were delicate, yet vivid, and not overly long – just enough for the reader to see and recall.

It would spoil your enjoyment of the book to go into detail. Suffice it to say that we would recommend you acquire a copy and make the time to join Harold Fry on his unlikely pilgrimage.

On Monday, 28th October, we will meet to discuss “The Robe” by Lloyd Douglas.

Meeting place TBA

-0-0-0-

If a matter is not serious enough to pray about, then it is not serious enough to worry about: and if it is serious enough to pray about , and we have prayed about it, then there is no need to worry about it.

Christmas Trees

Sponsors Needed

We would like to have two Christmas Trees outside the main Doors of the Church again this year.

To do so we need sponsors towards the cost.

If you are able to donate, no matter how small an amount, please speak to Keren Hancox.



CENTRAL'S COPYRIGHT LICENCES

This is key standard information, like telephone numbers - don't forget what you have to do if you're:

(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 or Sheena, they 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:

Photocopied By Permission. MRL Licence No 806540

No further action required for photocopying!

CENTRAL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HOVE

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Church Hall Telephone: 01273 734162

www.centralurchove.com

MINISTER

Rev. Alex Mabbs

(Day off: Friday)

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Rev. Roger Wood

(Day off: Thursday)

SECRETARY

Mrs. S. Ireland

TREASURER

Mr. C. Hill

COVENANT & FREEWILL OFFERING SECRETARY

Refer: Secretary/Treasurer

ORGANIST & CHOIR MASTER

Dr. A. Ireland

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.

Third Sunday of the month at 6.30 p.m.



**THE GIRLS' (LIFE) BRIGADE
1ST HOVE COMPANY
1907—2013**



1ST HOVE FACTS

- 1907 9th February, Company registered at Headquarters as GLB. It met at Rutland Hall, a mission church of Cliftonville
- 1937 Meeting place changed to Ventnor Hall, Cliftonville Congregational Church.
- 1965 The Girls' Life Brigade became the Girls' Brigade
- 1980 Cliftonville Congregational amalgamated with St Cuthberts Presbyterian Church and became Central United Reformed Church.
- 2007 Company Centenary celebrated
- 2013 16th July, Final Company Meeting

There have been:

7 Captains

14 members have gained the Queen's Award, which involved completing the Brigader Programme, service in the Company and Community, a major written project, initiative tests and passing an examination on the Monarchy and Parliament.

42 members have gained the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award since the Company was invited to join the Pilot Scheme in 1957. As I write three more are about to achieve Gold. Hundreds more have attained Bronze and Silver Badges.

2 members have been presented with the Endurance Award.

2 bands: the first a Drum and Fife band,

the second a Trumpet band with drums and Glockenspiels. This played once at a Brighton and Hove Albion football match at the Goldstone Ground.

100 + Annual Displays

THE ETHOS OF 1ST HOVE

From its inception, 1st Hove has been an active Company and an effective form of outreach to the local community.

An article in the local press in November 1907 describes, in detail, the first 1st Hove Display in Ventnor Hall. Another report in 1911 refers to a “sumptuous tea for 71 little ones,” prepared by the older GLB members.

Throughout its life the Company has tried to retain a breadth of programme and an integrity of purpose. As the 1907 newspaper article said the aim was to help each member to be “capable and responsible.....keenly interested in life and tingling with the simple joy of being alive.” OR, as the present aim states, “to find true enrichment of life.”



1st Hove Girls' Life Brigade—September 1908

How has this been achieved?

The organisation has a **SPIRITUAL** base and has to be a part of a Christian church. It was designed to extend the work of the Sunday School. Thus, throughout its life, 1st Hove has featured Church Parades, Bible Classes, Bible based badge subjects and interpretations of different aspects of Christian living through, stories, drama, discussion, creative work, singing and worship. Services held at camp hold special memories: Prayer Time with the sun setting; prayers on the Isles of Scilly looking towards America; a Prayer Journey travelling/ walking/ strolling through fields at Coldwaltham and concluding with an open air Communion Service – moments when God came very close.

PHYSICAL activities were mostly popular. The range over 106 years is huge, although not all fashions change. The “Round and Round the Village” game played by the Explorers at the Awards Evening in July 2013 might well have featured in the programme in February 1907, when the Company began!

What else has been included by way of exercise?

A representative selection includes: drill, fancy marching, skipping, club swinging, callisthenics, (all in 1907) rhythmic movement, dance in various forms, gymnastics, stoolball, rounders, netball, team games, volleyball, rambling, expeditions, athletics and swimming.

For much of its life, the Company took part in local and even some National competitions, always striving to attain the best standard possible. Members were also challenged to aim high as, for several decades, items were performed at the national GB Rallies in the Albert Hall. These included a musical bike ride, (bikes and performers travelling to London in the back of a furniture van!) tactical marching, singing, gymnastics and a variety of movement to music sequences.



1st Hove - Albert Hall Rally 1982

Company Displays were also annual occasions demanding practice and performance perfection. Camp was for many a highlight. Sites ranged from Ditchling to Switzerland, Coldwaltham to Guernsey and Broadstone Warren to the Isles of Scilly.

PANTOMIMES

Performed every two years:



Cinderella 1969 –70



Aladdin 2009



*1st Hove Girls' Life Brigade Company
50th Jubilee 1957*



*1st Hove Girls' Brigade
Centenary Parade 2007*



GB Display 2006 at Hove Park School



1st Hove Company—Triple Winners, International Friendship Competition

*Three National Trophies presented to 1st Hove
At the Albert Hall Rally.
Juniors, Seniors & Brigaders - each Section won its trophy,*

In the **EDUCATIONAL** section of 1st Hove's programme came a huge range of useful and creative subjects to know and do. These can best be summarised as Life skills and hobbies. Craft work of many kinds was taught and the Company was a frequent winner of the District's Allen West Handwork Competition, entry for which required four pieces of great difficulty and high quality in crafts, such as, knitting, crochet, embroidery, tapestry, smocking, needlework, collage and toy making. Other practical and helpful subjects were handyman, art, home, road and seaside safety, knot tying, citizenship, local knowledge, map and book reading, verse speaking and singing etc.

The First Hove Band led many parades and performed at charity events.



*1st Hove Band leading a section of the local BB Battalion Parade,
Madeira Drive - Late 1970s*

SERVICE is the final aspect of 1st Hove's activities. The badge programme included many health subjects; First Aid, hygiene, home nursing, baby and childcare. There were also courses in Fire Prevention and rescue, often at Hove Fire Station, and Lifesaving at the King Alfred.

The Company has also tried to be of practical service to others, by visiting Residential Homes and Clubs for the Disabled to perform, chat and sing carols; by distributing Christmas gift parcels; by organising fellowship meals for older members of the church; and by helping and performing at church events.

Many thousands of pounds have been raised for charities: some through small events and individual regular giving; much more through our popular pantomimes, Aladdin, Dick Whittington, Snow White and the all time favourite, Cinderella. Sponsored events such as walks, 24 hour endurance sessions, sleep-outs and work-ins were also significant money raisers.

In 1970 £250 was raised for a Guide Dog.

In 2013 £2500 was presented as a cheque to Whizz Kidz.

Over the intervening years upwards of thirty other charities have received similar support.



Carol singing at Dresden House Rest Home - December 2000

AWARD WINNERS

Sarah Gale with her Queen's Award (left). Louise King (right) given her Endurance Award. She later gained Her Queen's Award



Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award winners 1995



Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expedition Practice with Trangia!

REFLECTIONS

A small selection of members from each decade from the 1930s to the present was asked what they most valued about their involvement in 1st Hove. It is apparent from the following miscellaneous selection of their replies that the Company's ethos and teaching still influence their lives today.

1st Hove gave me:

- Comradeship. Life long friendship. Fun and laughter. Teamwork. Equal Treatment. A second family.
- A loving, caring, encouraging Christian environment
- The building blocks of the person I am today
- The pointers to the right path in life. – it helped shape my life.
- Stability during my turbulent teenage years.
- The wish to be a member of this church.
- Confidence, loyalty, discipline, pride , perseverance and leadership qualities
- A sense of respect for myself and others
- The will to always finish a task
- The will to take on a challenge - like crawling through a pothole!
- Amazing opportunities and unique experiences
- The opportunity to meet Prince Philip
- A huge range of activities and practical life skills that I still use, such as, buttering bread to the corners, pitching a tent and cooking on a Trangia at a festival!
- The Staff, “who were always lovely, even when we were not being so nice. The amount of personal time every one gave up voluntarily for all those years is amazing! Although we probably did not appreciate it at the time, now, as an adult, I realise how lucky we were.”

There have been many shifts in emphasis and many differing methods of delivery as Girls Brigade adapted to a changing society. Fashions altered and technology advanced but throughout its life 1st Hove has sought to offer girls a loving and supportive environment in which they might achieve their full potential.

We hope and pray that the girls' organisation now evolving will continue to offer Spiritual, Physical, Educational and Service opportunities to its members.

SPES means **HOPE**

HOPE for the future



1st Hove supporting Whizz Kidz.

Spring 2013

Finally, thank you to members of the church, to parents and ex - members who, over the years, have prayed for, supported, enthused and encouraged 1st Hove Girls' Brigade Company.