

150 Years of Worship and Outreach

Central United Reformed Church Hove



July 2014

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,

As a denomination, the United Reformed Church prides itself on being a 'wide' church (meaning wide in theology from liberal to conservative and evangelical). Perhaps we are too wide, because we are in danger of losing our identity, and we can reach the point that it can hardly be termed 'Christian'. A good example of this was a recent letter in *Reform* magazine where the correspondent wrote:

"As a Christian, I don't believe in everlasting life, heaven, miracles, sin, prayer - all smokescreens to allow a few to retain control over the masses."

As we pick ourselves up off the floor, we wonder what's left! We can only conclude that this person doesn't believe what Jesus is recorded as saying in the Gospels. Thankfully, the following month, someone wrote in about the view expressed and this "definition of being a Christian which is difficult to locate within any orthodox understanding of that name." That is very gentle - I think 'impossible' would be a better word!

However, this does raise the question of the authenticity and reliability of the Gospel accounts. How well did the disciples remember what Jesus said and did? It has been interesting to hear recently the recollections of 2nd World War veterans talking about D-Day, 70 years ago. Time after time they were heard to say that they remembered everything 'as if it happened yesterday.' We also need to realise that at the time of Jesus, people were much more used to using their memories, especially in connection with their religion.

But as well as the purely practical aspects of this, there is also a miraculous element in this matter which enabled the disciples to remember very clearly what Jesus said and did. As Jesus said on the last occasion he was with his disciples before his death: "The Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you" (*John 14 v. 26*).

We can trust the Scriptures.

Wishing You God's blessing,

Roger

IMPORTANT

Please note the following dates:

SUNDAY 20th JULY 12.00 noon

After the Morning Service

CENTRAL'S CHURCH MEETING

&

TUESDAY 22nd JULY 7.30 p.m.

At

CENTRAL

JOINT PASTORATE MEETING

With Hounsom & Portslade U.R.Cs

Pam, Emma & Chip
after their presentations
during SYM Service



FAMILY NEWS FROM CENTRAL

What a delightful month June has been! Granted England made an early and somewhat ignominious exit from the World Cup; Andy Murray and Nadal were knocked out too soon from Wimbledon and the situation in the Middle East seems to worsen every day – one could go on.... However, here in Central each week in June has brought with it quiet blessings to be treasured and which have given cause for thanksgiving. From every aspect of our church family life, there has been joy, satisfaction and cause for celebration. Starting with the successes of the Boys' Brigade who won the Battalion Athletics Trophy on Monday evening and then came second in the Battalion Swimming Gala the following Saturday, we rolled through the month with a profitable Summer Fair, a very happy and inspiring SYM Morning service and finished with an evening of glorious music, which soared around the church, sung by the Kingfisher Chorale.

A month in which all ages contributed their talents and supported each other. A month in which we had so much to give thanks to God for all His goodness and blessings, which swept away so many of our doubts, fears and scepticism.

Congratulations to the Tenth on their athletic and swimming successes. It is wonderful to watch the Boys throwing themselves so enthusiastically, energetically and supportively into every event in which they are asked/challenged to participate. Congratulations also to those who won individual medals as the best in their group. There were some amazing performances.

The day of the Summer Fair was bright with sunlight and this seemed to brighten the halls, the customers and the stall holders. It was a great effort with many new faces lending helping hands. At one point there were no less than three Sheilas busy in the kitchen! It also showed that if everyone does a little, even for a short time, everyone benefits and there is a renewed spirit of camaraderie and friendship. The Treasurer is also delighted by the total amount realised - £1,226.40 which surpasses the past two years' totals.

The Morning Service led by members of the Sunday Youth Ministry was a revelation in so many ways and it was with a light heart that we left the sanctuary on Sunday 22nd June, inspired once more to be a light in the world's darkness.

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12.

This was the verse from which the young people took their inspiration for the service. Through hymns, computer presentations, readings, prayers, scientific experiments and a talk challenging us to Let Your Light Shine the young people sent us out to “Go in the strength of the Lord.” From Primary School to A level age ranges, the young people challenged, reassured and inspired. Special mention must be made of Josh Mabbs for his courage and aplomb in standing on the platform throughout the service, dressed like a candle – white lab coat and orange, red and yellow headpiece - and also for his clear depiction and explanation of the electric circuit which made a bulb light up by joining batteries together. Kandy’s talk was so thoughtful that we have printed it on Page 14.



Josh helps light up our service

Young people need encouragement and inspiration to make the most of their talents, so while, for a moment during the service, we took the opportunity to celebrate Emma Newman’s achievement in gaining her Gold Duke of Edinburgh’s Award on the eve of her going to St James’s Palace to receive her certificate, it was appropriate that we should say thanks to two of the people who have encouraged so many of our girls to aim and gain this award. Chip Dunn and Pam Moody have given so much time and effort to inspiring so many girls of our former Girls’ Brigade Company to aim for Gold, not forgetting to mention even more who gained Silver and Bronze awards. So it was with great affection and respect that Chip and Pam were presented with large lanterns, as a token of gratitude for the light they have shed on so many lives. It was wonderful to have so many of the Gold Award winners back in church as

part of this presentation. The noise level afterwards was high – as was the brightness of the smiles!

The concert 8 is Great by the Kingfisher Chorale on 28th June was amazing and their music glorious. There is no other word for it. Only one person in the church has sufficient knowledgeable appreciation to write about it, so Alan Ireland's article may be found on Page 17 in the magazine. From a purely plebeian level, the contrapuntal effect of the work based on Jeremiah literally raised hairs on skin and reverberated ankles.

By the time you receive this magazine, the church garden party cum Big O party will have been held and Chip Dunn will have celebrated hers while Charlie Steel will be 70 on 21st July. Not all birthdays are Big Os: some are just BIG. So it was with real pleasure that we were able to congratulate Harvey on his 21st birthday. He, Gift and Kandy are continuing the celebration by visiting their homeland in August for a month. We pray that they have a safe journey and a very happy and rewarding time reuniting with family and friends.

Speaking of reunions we were so pleased to welcome Mary Doo back safely from her Canadian trip, which was a very happy and rewarding time for both Mary, her brother and his family. Mary had some wonderful adventures, with rides in cable cars and climbing on a bicycle for the first time in fifty years! Another blessing.

Not the last nor the least is the glad news that Betty Briggs has become a great-grandmother. We pray that the new baby will be a source of great happiness and blessing to all the family.

We have just learned that Chris Hill has had an operation on his knee and wish him a speedy and successful recovery

Sadly, some friends have been unable to enjoy the good weather but have ended up in hospital. So your prayerful support for **Dale Marland, Betty Hicks, Barbara Woolvett** would be appreciated, as it would also by:

Tebello Sibanda, Peggy McMillen, Clive & Shirley Hamblin, John Gilson, Mary Cochrane, Joy Kemp.

Please remember too, if you hear of someone who is ill, to let their pastoral leader, an elder or Roger know.

Finally, as we move into July, we ask for your continued prayers for our church, the Elders, ministers and the Pastorate as we move forward in the

interregnum.

With this in mind, please make a real effort to attend the **Church Meeting on Sunday, 20th July** after the morning service, to learn and make decisions about Central and, equally important, the **Joint Pastorate Meeting on Tuesday, 22nd July, at 7.30 p.m.** Remember, this is **your** church and you need to support and decide its future.

Some serious praying for guidance would help.

YOUR LETTERS

Dear Friends,

We would like to say a huge thank you to you all for your cards, thoughts, prayers and support, not only since Keith's passing but also over the last 18 months.

Thank you to everyone who came to his service of thanksgiving and to those around the world, who were keeping us in their thoughts and prayers. As a family we have been uplifted by all your love and support.

With love and thanks,

Ann, Lesley, Carl and Mark (Keith's nephew).

* * * * *

Dear Friends,

We would like to thank you all for prayers said when Brian was so very ill after a stroke. He is progressing very well.

Sylvia & Stephen Bates

CENTRAL'S SUMMER FAIR





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

We are delighted to report that the Company has had a very successful month in both athletics and swimming. You may have seen the battalion Athletics trophy at the front of the church. We managed to retain this for a second year despite stiff competition, particularly from 14th Brighton Company, who fielded a very strong senior team.

It was a very enjoyable evening and all the boys gave 100% in their efforts and made every point count.

Our thanks to our travelling pack of vociferous supporters. Our only disappointment of the evening was that unfortunately the other companies could not muster a Staff Relay team between them, so our Staff could not compete. Once again, we regard ourselves as winners by default.!!!

The Swimming Gala on Saturday of the same week was another successful event in which we participated. We did not win, this time, but we did come in a very respectable second. While we did not win the trophy we boys did gain medals in their respective age groups.

A very Well Done to all.

At the moment we have been enjoying the good weather and relaxing after a hard year's work by spending our evenings, enjoying the open air round at St Andrew;s Playing Field





The Touray Brothers—Henry & Moses - Medallist



The Tenth Swimming Team



CHURCH CALENDAR

JULY

SUN 6	Family Service – Holy Communion Rev. Roger Wood Evening Worship - The Junction	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Wed 9	Elders' Meeting	7.30 pm
SUN 13	Family Service Rev. Peter Elliott Evening Worship Rev. Lynda Hulcoop	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Wed 16	Men's Fellowship – Car Rally	6.45 pm
SUN 20	Family Service Naomi McBain Church Meeting Evening Worship Rev Roger Wood	10.30 am 12.00 noon 6.30 pm
Tue 22	Pastorate United Church Meeting At Central	7.30 pm
SUN 27	Family Service Rev Roger Wood Evening Worship—Holy Communion Rev. Peter Elliott	10.30 am 6.30 pm

Mon 28 Christian Book Club – “Light shining in the Forest” 8.00 pm
(Pam Moody)

AUGUST

SUN 3 Family Service – Holy Communion 10.30 am
John Du Bois
Evening Worship—The Junction with a Twist 6.30 pm

- All contributions for the ‘**AUGUST + SEPTEMBER**’ edition of the magazine must be handed in no later than **SUNDAY 20th JULY.** Please remember this edition covers TWO months, so please let the editor have your start dates for the new autumn term.
- 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.



FLOWERS FOR JULY

6th Peter Gear – in memory of his mother
Joy Gurden – in memory of her mother, Mrs Mary York

13th Available

20th Rev Peter & Mrs Celia Elliott – in memory of Thierry & Kevin

27th Mrs Ann Austen – in memory of Keith

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

When we were planning this service I found a quote from the Author Terry Pratchett who says

"Light thinks it travels faster than anything but it is wrong. No matter how fast light travels, it finds the darkness has always got there first, and is waiting for it."

For a Christian this seems like a very negative view, it suggests that it is the darkness that is more powerful.

In our Church we see candles lit at Advent, Christmas and Easter as well as at baptism, they are a point of focus for the faith and hope of believers. But the quote is an important reminder that there is darkness in our lives and in our world and that we need the light to reach those dark spots.

It isn't just Christians who see light as an important symbol of faith - Hindus and Sikhs celebrate Divali as a festival of light. Jews keep Hanukah by lighting candles for the eight days of the festival. But light is a universal symbol. It expresses important meanings in sacred and secular life all over the world. Candles are lit for birthdays, fireworks are set off for celebrations, lamps burn to remember the dead. Many of our favourite stories and films have the idea of light overcoming darkness at their heart - whether it is in Star Wars, Harry Potter or His Dark Materials.

For Christians, light is not just a sign of joy or a practical way of expressing hope. It is linked directly to the birth, life, death and resurrection of Christ and so for us is a symbol of Jesus himself. Isaiah speaks of the Messiah as 'a light to the Gentiles,' and we have already heard from John's Gospel of him writing about the mystery of Christ's birth, describing it as: 'The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.'

After Jesus was crucified it went dark - not just ordinary dark, proper sinister dark.

That's why the start of John's Gospel is so good: 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.' We can't ever give in to it. We mustn't let ourselves be overwhelmed by the darkness and to be filled with hate.

From the SYM service on 22nd June.

STRIKE!

On Wednesday 18th June nine members of the Men's Fellowship plus fourteen guests drove through the beautiful Sussex countryside and descended upon The Royal Oak, in the quaint village of Barcombe for our annual Bar Skittles Challenge Trophy.

We divided into four teams (Clubs, Hearts, Diamonds, Spades) and after four rounds, and very close scores, the Clubs' Team, led by the intrepid Jim Lyall, won with a score of 152, closely followed by the runners up, Hearts, who achieved a worthy 148. The highest scorers were Graham Smith and Jim Lyall, who both achieved a very creditable 29 skittles, out of a possible total of 36. After the second round at half time we were ready for our supper of Shepherd's Pie or Braised Steak which went down extremely well, washed down with a few refreshing pints of the local Harvey's Best Bitter. There was a great deal of good-humoured banter between the teams, led especially by Pam Macaulay with her patriotic flags, and Alasdair Macaulay with his lone Saltire.

Apparently Germany is the country that is credited for starting the sport of bowling. And believe it or not, it began as a church game to prove how good a Christian you were – no change there then, Way back in the 3rd Century, members went out into the churchyard after the service and set up a single wooden pin. The pin represented the devil. One by one, the church members got their chance to prove what a good Christian they were by rolling stones at the stick. If you knocked the stick down, it meant you were a good Christian because you'd just knocked the devil out of your life. If you missed...well, next week you had a chance to prove your Christianity again.

Everyone bowled – even the priests. But the priests didn't bowl using one pin. (Hmm? Gives them a better shot at proving their Christianity when they have got more pins.) Instead the priests set up as many pins as there were church members. So that's why our Minister seemed especially enthusiastic as he threw his ball with great gusto down the skittle alley!

Well, it took about 200 years for the people to realize that bowling to prove your Christianity was more up to the skill of the person's accuracy and throwing ability than the quality of their soul. Which is a good thing – otherwise, some of us who got pitifully low scores would be in trouble – eternally!

Anyway, a great time was had by all, and our grateful thanks are due to Jim Lyall for organising the event so efficiently – thank you Jim.

Next year it is rumoured we have a challenge from the Methodists...

Peter Elliott



The Winning team captained by a modest Jim Lyall



8 IS GR8 – A CONCERT REVIEW

For those of you who didn't attend Saturday's concert by the Kingfisher Chorale in our Church, you'll never know what you missed. For the rest of us it was a joy and delight! We were treated to a cornucopia of musical delights from 16th Century France to present day Scotland. The style of music was enormously varied, though the one thing it did have in common was the fact that it was all written for at least 8 individual parts, and often many more. Composers included (to name a few) Purcell, Gibbons, Tavener, Tippett, Barber, MacMillan and Stanford.

The choir from Leicester numbered 20 singers (including Keren's brother Jonathan) and is a very able amateur ensemble with a strong reputation, including several recordings. Their music director Giles Turner was an excellent communicator and is clearly passionate about this repertoire. The music was entirely unaccompanied, and the performances were strong and committed, and the audience, though small, was very appreciative indeed.

Much of the music was familiar to me, though not to most, I suspect. It was all however very accessible, even the more modern pieces. The most recent piece, the Miserere by James MacMillan, was unknown to me and was utterly gorgeous.

Roger summed it up well in his vote of thanks when he said that the music had 'blown him away'. We all went away on a musical high, and I hope that many will want to explore this music further for themselves. Huge thanks must go to Keren for organising such a stimulating and enjoyable evening for us.

Alan Ireland



BB Athletics Evening

LEADERSHIP IN THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME –

A Tribute.

Since the mid 1980s, Chip Dunn has been involved as a leader in the Duke of Edinburgh's award Scheme, fulfilling many roles across all four sections.

Chip has taught **Service Section subjects** and liaised with agencies offering volunteering opportunities such as the Police, Fire Services and The Martlets.

She has supervised a variety of **Physical Activities** including dance and movement sequences, for which she has often provided musical accompaniment.

In the **Skills Section** Chip has encouraged and coached a high number of participants to perform, both dramatically and musically, at standards higher than many of them thought possible. She has enthusiastically helped them to develop their talents and improve their confidence AND provided a lot of fun and laughter on the way.

Finally, Chip has contributed enormously to the running of the **Expedition Section**. Map and compass work, camping skills, teamwork, decision making, first aid, and safety rules, the development of stamina and determination: Chip has nurtured all these through practice hikes, navigation exercises, training camps and by accompanying girls on expeditions until they had the confidence and skills to cope alone for the assessment. Hours and days of caring commitment – and then driving literally hundreds of miles to check assessment expeditions. Often hidden from sight, the participants did not know she was there, but *she* knew they were safe.

Thank you, Chip, of fulfilling the Duke of Edinburgh's leaders' aim of "inspiring young people to fulfil their potential."

I am going to ask Emma, on behalf of all the 1st Hove Girls' Brigade participants you have helped, to present you with a Duke of Edinburgh's Award Thank You Certificate for 30 years' loyal service.

But wait a minute! There is the other half of this duo – Pam, who received her Gold Award from the Duke of Edinburgh, as part of the Pilot Scheme, or one of the first group of young people to receive the award almost fifty

years ago.

Since then Pam has helped, supported, encouraged, cajoled all the girls listed on our board who have attained their Gold Awards and countless others, who have also earned their Bronze and Silver Awards.

Pam and Chip, you have been our shining lights: never failing to burn brightly, leading us and showing us the way, especially when we were lost or flagging. Please accept these lights as a token of our gratitude and as a reminder of all the nights and days you have burned brightly to keep us safe from harm.



Some of the Duke of Edinburgh Award winners at the Service 22nd June.

THE FRUITS OF THEIR LABOURS

A Personal View of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Embarking on the Duke Of Edinburgh Award is something I would 100% advise anybody to do, if they ever have the chance. The friends I have made along the way combined with the memories made have honestly changed the way I view life.

People always told me that life skills are learnt not taught. Before completing my Duke Of Edinburgh Award I never really understood what that meant. However after completing my award these life skills have built my confidence, taught me self respect and appreciation for everything life has in store for me.

If I had the chance, with the challenges that occurred, I would retrace my steps and relive every moment again. I wouldn't even change the temperature and tent we didn't really have at -4°C at 5am in the morning!!

The Duke Of Edinburgh Award has shaped me to be the person I am today and I am proud to share my experiences with everyone at Central.

Emma Newman



Emma at St James's Palace

CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB

June's book of choice was "The Testament of Mary" by Colm Tóibín. We were deceived by the slimness of the volume into thinking it might be "an easy read," especially as, we thought, we already knew the story.

Never make assumptions.

We had assumed, mainly from the title, that this was the story of Mary, mother of Jesus, and that it would be a description of His life/ministry as seen through her eyes. Well, it would seem that we were wrong because both the author and the actress, who plays Mary in the stage production of the book, claim that it is only *based* on the Virgin Mary. Very, very closely.

The tale is spoken by a woman whose son got into the wrong company - according to his mother - who led him astray. For "wrong company" we were inclined to think the disciples and followers but she considers them to be riff-raff.. She tried to persuade him frequently to leave them and come home to lead a quiet safe life but, of course, he did not listen to her. In the end, the religious elite and Roman authorities have him condemned to death and crucified.

The Mary has to flee the country and live in hiding, guarded by two men, who are trying to persuade her to say or testify to things, which she says did not happen, or, which, she believes, are being misinterpreted in order to keep her son's memory alive both to his followers and those who are joining the "cult."

There are miracles performed by her son but not in the order we are used to. For example, turning water into wine at the marriage in Cana is not the first miracle and only a bit of showing off by her son, as far as this Mary is concerned. Raising Lazarus from the dead, was a big mistake and Lazarus was deeply unhappy about being brought back to a life of pain and suffering.

The description of the crucifixion is harrowing and realistic and yet it also leads to some of the most poetic paragraphs of prose in the book. The "resurrection" is much more ethereal and difficult to grasp. As it would appear it is for the Mary character of the book. Certainly there is little joy, satisfaction or hope to be had from it by her. She is a deeply traumatised woman who has watched her son, whose name she cannot even bear to say, move inevitably to a death on the cross, which she witnessed.

The Mary of this book symbolises all the mothers down the centuries who have suffered their sons' untimely deaths for whatever cause. The inevitable question arises: Was it worth it? All the pain? All the suffering?

This Mary has no doubt. *“I was there. I fled before it was over but if you want witnesses then I am one and I tell you now, when you say he redeemed the world, I will say that it was not worth it. It was not worth it.”*

There are so many questions left unanswered. Who were her two guardians? What is the symbolism of the man with the bag of rabbits? Is it believable that Mary would turn from her Jewish faith to finding comfort in Artemis, a Greek goddess? Was this the Virgin Mary and was her son, our Jesus?

The parallels with Mary and Jesus are too close to be comfortable, especially for anyone from a Christian background. And, for once, the Guardian got it right! It describes this book, as, “Fearsomely strange, deeply thoughtful (thought provoking –Ed) and subtly disturbing.”

In July, we shall be reading, “Light Shining in the Forest” by Paul Torday. We meet in Pam Moody’s home, 1 Hartington Villas on 28th July at 8.00 pm.

22nd September, “Charing Cross Road” at Chip Dunn’s,

27th October, “The Christian Atheist” at Clare Popley’s.

Bric-a -Brac Summer Fair



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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:

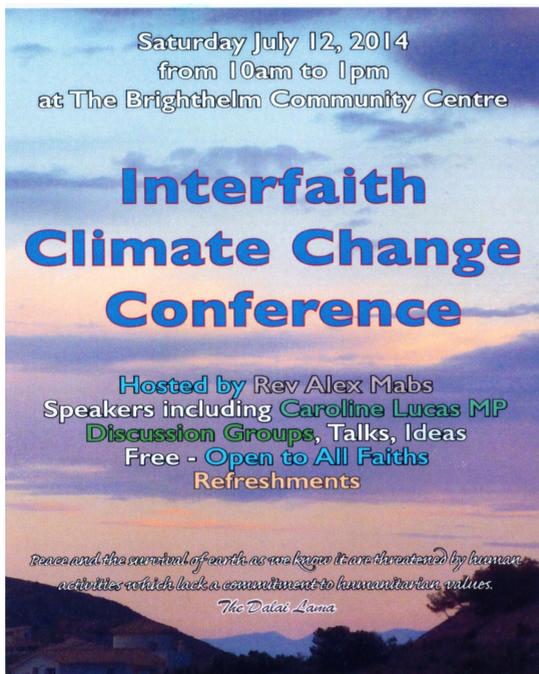
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CENTRAL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HOVE

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www.centralurchove.com

MINISTER

Rev. Roger Wood

(Day off: Thursday)

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.

Fourth Sunday of the month at 6.30 p.m.