

*150 Years of Worship and Outreach*

# Central United Reformed Church Hove



**August/September 2015**

# **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 H Brown
<i>Men's Fellowship</i> (Third Wednesday)	Mr. P. Gear
<i>Welcome Break</i> (Wednesdays)	Mrs. P. Macaulay
<i>Bluebird Parent &amp; under 3s Group</i>	Mrs K. Hancox
Church Web Site	Mr John Brewster

**Church Hall Tel: 01273 734162**  
**Email: [info@centralurchove.com](mailto:info@centralurchove.com)**

## AN ELDER SPEAKS.

*Dear Friends,*

The summer at Central has been as busy as usual. The Fair, the Skittles, the U3A choir, sausage and chips evenings, amazing Junctions and great Worship, and of course lots of meetings! Now all has gone quiet: the “lets” and organisations have all ended and now a new venture begins - tidying up and clearing cupboards ready for the building works.

Isn't it amazing how much “stuff” accumulates in one cupboard?

Our lives can be like the cupboard, things get put away just in case they might be useful in the future. My Father had a bits box, which over the years became nearly a room! Sadly I take after Dad and have to fight hard to prevent myself from just keeping things. Of course I get plenty of encouragement/nagging from him indoors. [we won't mention trains!] We all need to clean up ourselves, as Jesus tells the Pharisees “clean the inside that the outside may also be clean”, Matt.23 v 26. As an Elder, I must also remember 1 Tim. 3 v 5 !

The LMMR report was a sort of Spring clean for the Church and already we can see improvements: newly painted doors, WiFi, new lights, more space in the Sanctuary etc. but the biggest improvement will be the new toilets. Central has been greatly blest by peoples' generosity a good Treasurer and finance committee, to make this possible.

On 20<sup>th</sup> Sept. Jonathan Franks comes to lead worship and tell us about the Tearfund toilet twinning project, then we will understand how very fortunate we are. So let us come to the new session, refreshed and restored with renewed energy to help, guide and support each other in the future.

My love and thanks to you all,

*Keren Hancox*



## **THE JUNCTION**

At the October JUNCTION we would like to show photographs of everyone's summer holiday during "The News".

Please send in your holiday pictures to [centralurchove@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:centralurchove@hotmail.co.uk)  
OR hand them to one of the J Team aka Chris & Suzanne Hill, John Brewster, Andy Lowe.

THANK YOU

The Social Activities Committee

Invite you  
To

**A COFFEE  
MORNING**

**SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER**

10.30 a.m.

Coffee/tea and cakes

## **FAMILY NEWS FROM CENTRAL**

Central is going to be unnaturally quiet during the month of August – apart from the thuds and crashes from the builders as they renovate our toilets. All of our church organisations and most of our friends who hire the halls will be taking a holiday or temporarily meeting elsewhere. However, Sunday Services will continue as normal and we have a very varied, interesting and enthusiastic number of preachers coming to lead our worship, both morning and evening. Do please come along and support them, and enjoy the fellowship of worshipping God together.

It has been so good to have **Willi Ghoshal** back with us again after her accident. Not only is she attending church as faithfully as ever but she has been back at Bluebird too. Her bruises are beginning to fade but she is still in some pain, particularly at the back of her head. We hope her recovery continues and by September she will be her usual self once more.

Please hold **Tebello and Reuben Sibanda** in your prayers. Pray that God will comfort and strengthen them, as Tebello's condition worsens, and pray too that they may receive the care and support they need. May they feel surrounded by our love and prayers.

**Ruth Scott** is now happily settled in her nursing home and enjoying the stimulus of making new friends. She would be happy to have visits from any of her church friends. Her new address is elsewhere in the magazine.

Welcome Break may be closed for August but it closed with a bang by celebrating **Charlie Steel's** birthday! It will be re-starting 9<sup>th</sup> September.



**Celia and Peter Elliott** will be undergoing some tests in August and we pray this will ensure they are fit and healthy to enjoy time with their daughter, **Sally**, in France when they visit her in September. Sally has been having a comparatively good summer so far, although she has to undergo further treatments later on. There have been no major dips in her health and she is in good spirits. We thank God for these good weeks and pray that Sally will begin to be restored to full health soon.

It was a real pleasure to welcome the **Reason Family** back worshipping with us one Sunday en route for Blackpool, after picking up Simon from university. All three are looking well and Simon has enjoyed his first year.

Congratulations to **Alex Hill** on graduating with a 2:1 degree in economics. We wish him every success and blessing in the future.

Congratulations also to **Katie and T.J. Olajiga**, who celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September. Peter Elliott performed the marriage ceremony and remembers it fondly. We add our best wishes for the future and pray that they may continue to have many happy years together.

Enjoy your summer – if it ever arrives!

*Fellowship of Prayer:*

*Tebello Sibanda, Peggy McMillen, Clive and Shirley Hamblin, John Gilson, Ros Ayling Jan Owen, Muriel Lewis & Ivy Newell*



## 10<sup>th</sup> BRIGHTON (HOVE) BOYS' BRIGADE COMPANY.

We missed our usual summer Monday evenings at St. Andrews's sports field due to the inclement weather – four wet Mondays in succession.

Nevertheless we still managed to enjoy ourselves, especially on our closing evening with games in the hall and our traditional sausage and chip supper. It is good to have the whole Company sit down together for a meal.

We start again with a very full programme ahead of us on **MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER.**

Anchors and Junior Sections      6.15 – 7.30 pm

Company Section                      7.30 – 9.30 pm.

**NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME.**

So, if you know any boys 5+, please encourage them to come along.



BB Last night before Summer Break

## PARACLETE

*Tina Masaka*

Over the years, many of you will have heard us refer to Rev. Jonah Masaka, the minister who runs our Bible and Training School in Kwadzana, Zimbabwe.

He and his wife, Tracy, have five children. Their daughter, Tina, was recently in the UK to attend her boyfriend's sister's wedding. Whilst here, she took the opportunity to stay for a few days with Lynda Hulcoop.

Some time ago, *Paraclete* took the decision to support Tina in her studies at university in South Africa. Without our financial support this would have been impossible. Tina took her degree in pharmacy and, since graduating, she has worked for a while near home, in Harare, and helped her family financially, when she could, but often she failed to get paid.

She is now working, administering drugs, in a Pharmacy department in a large hospital in S. Africa and thanks *Paraclete* and all who contributed to her funding.

It was a privilege to meet Tina at June Whittle's home recently. She is a lovely Christian girl and a joy to be with.

*Adrian & Hilary Ball*



# CHURCH CALENDAR

## AUGUST

SUN 2	Family Service – Holy Communion Rev. Andy Lowe (Hove Methodist) Evening Worship – Summer Junction	10.30 am  6.30 pm.
SUN 9	Family Service Rev Peter Elliott Evening Worship Rev. Lynda Hulcoop	10.30 am  6.30 pm
SUN 16	Family Service Stella Goddard Evening Worship Rev. Lynda Hulcoop	10.30 am  6.30 pm
SUN 23	Family Service Paul Young (Off the Fence) Evening Worship – Holy Communion Rev Peter Elliott	10.30 am  6.30 pm
Sat 29	Men’s Fellowship at Charleston Farm House Contact Peter Elliott	10.15 am
SUN 30	Family Service Chris Woodcock (Barnabas Fund) Evening Worship Rev. Andy Lowe (Hove Methodist)	10.30 am  6.30 pm

*During August our regular activities and meetings are suspended while essential refurbishment work is being carried out.*

***Please do NOT enter the building unless you have urgent business and then only by the front door.***

***Please ensure you let the builders know you are on the premises.***

# CHURCH CALENDAR

## SEPTEMBER

SUN 6	Family Service - Holy Communion Rev. Graeme Allan Evening Worship – Summer Junction	10.30 am  6.30 pm
Mon 7	Bluebird Parents & Toddlers re-starts Boys’ Brigade re-starts	9.15 am 6.15 pm
Tue 8	Bluebird Parents & Toddlers re-starts Tuesday Fellowship – Opening Meeting Mrs Keren Hancox	9.15 am 2.30 pm
Wed 9	Welcome Break re-starts Elders’ Meeting	12 noon 7.30 pm
SUN13	Family Service Rev Peter Elliott Evening Worship Rev Lynda Hulcoop	10.30 am  6.30 pm
Tue 15	Girls’ Club re-starts	5.45 pm
Sat 19	Coffee Morning – Social Activities	10.30 am
SUN 20	Family Service Jonathan Frank (Tearfund) Church Meeting Evening Worship Rev. Lynda Hulcoop	10.30 am  12.00 noon 6.30 pm
Tue 22	Tuesday Fellowship Geoffrey James Entertains	2.30 pm
Sat 26	HARVEST SUPPER	6.30 pm



SUN 27

## HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Family Service – Parade	10.30 am
Rev. Paul Frampton	
Evening Worship – Holy Communion	6.30 pm
Rev. Peter Elliott	

Mon 28	Christian Book Club – The Life of Bees 234 New Church Road ( Chip Dunn’s)	8.00 pm
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Wed 30	Elders meet with Hove Methodists At Portland Road Methodist Church	7.30 pm
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## OCTOBER

SUN 4	Family Service – Holy Communion Rev Nicola Furley-Smith (Synod Moderator)	10.30 am
	Evening Worship – The Junction	6.30 pm

All contributions for the OCTOBER edition of the magazine must be handed in no later than **SUNDAY 20<sup>th</sup> September.**

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 August*

2nd	Gladys Moore & Charlie Steel
16th	Reuben Sibanda—in memory of his parents
30th	Mr & Mrs Carl Jukes—Wedding Anniversary

## *Flower Rota for September*

6th	Katie & TJ Olajiga - Tenth Wedding Anniversary
13th	Sheila Friend - in memory of her father
20th	Jill Humphrey
27th	HARVEST FLOWERS

- Contributions towards the cost of flowers with which to decorate the church for Harvest Thanksgiving will be most welcome. Please give your gift to Rosemary Brice by Sunday 20th September.
- HELP is needed to decorate the church for Harvest. If you have foliage or fruit and vegetables, please leave them in the church on Friday 25th September 12 noon - 1.00 pm. OR come along on Saturday 26th September from 10.00 am onwards and help decorate. You do not have to be a flower arranger — gofers and tea-makers are equally essential . A willing pair of hands and a smile does and says it all!

### **TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP**

We start again on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> September, at our usual time of 2.30 p.m.

Keren Kancox will be our guest at the Opening Meeting

22<sup>nd</sup> September – Geoffrey James entertains us with song.

6<sup>th</sup> October – Wendy Young from *Off the Fence* is our speaker.

Everyone is welcome and there is always a cup of tea and biscuits to enjoy with a chat at the end of each meeting.

CENTRAL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

# HARVE ST SUPPER

Saturday 26th September

6.30 p.m.

Ventnor Hall

Tickets £8.00 (£4.00 under 12s)

Available from 6th September

What has Michael Eavis, Lewis Hamilton, Christopher Columbus, Patrick Moore, Kevin Ashman Claude Monet and Mary Berry all have in common?

The answer is .....

## **The Men's Fellowship Car Rally held on Wednesday** **15<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

We all met as instructed by our organiser Graham Smith (alias Michael Eavis) in the car park of the Jack and Jill pub at Clayton. Car boots were emptied of lots of goodies prepared by the ladies (Mary Berry) into Graham's car to be taken to 177 Nevill Road for the Bring and Share Supper. (That is if we ever returned from the devious route that had been planned)

Not only had we to follow the route illustrated by little squares showing arrows in which direction to go BUT we also had to answer 2½ A4 pages of questions ! !

We were split into two teams. Team 1, going off first, was Denzil Brice, Chris Hill, Celia Elliott and Hilary Ball. Team 2 was Adrian Ball, Suzanne Hill, Rosemary Brice, Peter Elliot and Alisdair Macauley.

It was a lovely sunny evening, the South Downs looked beautiful. Did we really have to answer all those questions? The answer to the first one came up really quickly. The height of the railway bridge at Hassocks, the second – Mr Osborne may exercise here and then Watering hole for animals fleet of foot were easily found as having lived in Hassocks I knew Chancellors Park and the Greyhound public house.

By now we were really getting into working out the clues and finding answers to suit. We travelled along the road under the downs to the A275 then turning left to Cooksbridge, then right, through the village of Hamsey. Back to the A275 at Offham and after answering all the questions about the bus shelter there, we were relieved to know that we had completed one of the A4 pages.

We were then directed down the A275 through the traffic lights at Lewes Prison and out onto the Newhaven Road where we turned left and did a circular tour of the village of Iford. Here Team 1 had a bit of a problem finding the answer to a clue with Chris and Hilary dashing around the village and taking down the names of every house. (too no avail !)

We continued back through Kingston where our sketching skills were put

to good use copying the charming intricate wooden sign for the village school, then along the Lewes bypass to the A23 into Brighton, along past the Black Lion to Preston Park, up Millers Road, across and down to the Old Shoreham Road and home to 177.

Here we were met with others members of the Men's Fellowship. While we had been dashing around the countryside they had prepared the supper. So Graham insisted that we eat before we decide the winners. Having used up all our resources we were ravenous but a scrumptious array of delicacies awaited us.

Now came the exciting part – WHO had won. Each question was ticked and for a while both teams seemed to be level. Then we came to Iford – Peter being the Kevin Ashman of team 2 knew that a fuller was a worker in the weaving industry and although team 1 had got Fullers Barn listed it could not be submitted as it was one of about 7 answers for that one question.!!

We then continued neck and neck to the drawing. The standard of drawing was very good but it was the detail that Graham was looking for and here again team 2 with the Monet skills in Suzanne's capable hands got the most points.

One last decider – the mileage. Both teams (I don't know how) did it in less mileage than Graham but it had to be the team whose mileage was closest to his – SO once again team 2 got the point and won the cup. Mind you several of the answers were contested – to no avail .

CONGRATULATIONS to team 2 and many thanks to Graham ( Michael Eavis, the organiser) for the planning and beautiful detailed drawings for the route

It was a fantastic evening, full of fun and fellowship, with everyone working well within their teams, very much like our church.

The drivers (Lewis Hamilton) Denzil Brice and Adrian Ball

The navigators (Christopher Columbus) Chris & Suzanne Hill

The observers (Patrick Moore) Hilary Ball and Rosemary Brice

The brains (Kevin Ashman) Celia Elliott, Peter Elliott, Alisdair Macauley

The artists (Claude Monet) Hilary Ball and Suzanne Hill

*Hils*

## CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB

Once upon a time there were two children, who lived in a country far, far away, and who were much loved by their father.....

The parallel between these lines and the story which Pari and Abdullah's father is telling them in the opening pages of the book, "*And the Mountains Echoed*" and the ensuing novel became heart breakingly clear as we read on. Set in Afghanistan, France, America, Pakistan the panorama of lives intertwining and parting and meeting makes this novel have perhaps a message which is more universal than his other two novels, which we have also read.

It must be admitted that we had found *A Thousand Splendid Suns* and *The Kite Runner* depressing but this novel is different. Although there is unbelievable suffering and heartbreak, there shines through it the overwhelming power of love. Not romantic chick-lit love but familial love and humane love which washed away our preconceptions about the various characters we meet throughout the book. Even characters whom we initially had judged harshly- it turns out – act from purer motives of love and loyalty than we had ever or perhaps ever could conceive. Love lasts over time and trial. It conquers physical disfigurement and in doing so causes someone to aim for the heights and ultimately help others. It can be epitomised by a box of feathers.

The enduring tragedy of Afghanistan and its peoples is played out in the book – the Russian Invasion, the Taliban, the drug lords. All the while people have to survive by doing things which we in the affluent West are quick to condemn, often without trying to understand. Try walking a mile in their shoes, before judging.

*And the Mountains Echoed* is a book we approached cautiously only to be quickly drawn in to the web of characters and their fates so that it became compulsive, very personal, reading.

The Book Club re-starts on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September, at 234 New Church Road (Chip Dunn's home) 8.00 pm . The book under discussion will be "The Secret Life of Bees"

Please feel free to join us: you will be very welcome.

*Out beyond ideas  
Of wrongdoing and rightdoing  
Is a field  
I will meet you there.*

*Jelaluddin Rumi 13th Century*



# The United Reformed Church

86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT, United Kingdom  
**General Secretary:** The Revd John Proctor

29th June 2015

To synods and local congregations of the United Reformed Church

Dear Friends,

We write to let you know about last Saturday's one-day meeting of the General Assembly in Birmingham, which discussed the marriage of same-sex couples. This was a continuation of work begun at last year's General Assembly in Cardiff, with the same membership, chiefly drawn from the thirteen synods of the Church. The discussion was thus able to take into account the thoughts and concerns that had been shared at Cardiff. Assembly also reflected on the results of the Church-wide consultation that ran from last September until March and to which the majority of our local churches contributed.

Assembly took some significant decisions, as follows:

Assembly decided not to express a single opinion on the matter of same-sex marriage. Members' convictions and views vary widely. No single view could fairly represent the URC as a whole.

For that reason, local Church Meetings in England and Wales should be responsible for deciding whether to apply to register their church buildings for same-sex marriage services. A local church might with integrity opt either to do this or not to do it. [In ecumenical churches the decision must also depend on the other participating denominations. But, so far as the URC is concerned, the view of the local church will be key.]

In Scotland, where the law focuses on the nomination of celebrants, the Synod of Scotland would act for our Church in this matter, under the oversight of the Registrar General for Scotland.

Finally, Assembly decided, since the marriage of same-sex couples would significantly alter URC practice, to seek ratification of the above set of policies by the formal process that we use for constitutional changes. This will involve asking our thirteen synods to consider the matter, and unless at least five of them ask that it 'be not proceeded with', bringing it back for final decision at next year's Assembly. Only at that stage could all of

the above policies come into operation.

You will surely understand that Assembly's work was not straightforward. As well as the underlying theological issues, this matter is both legally complex and pastorally sensitive, and many of our people have been deeply affected by the Church's discussion – for a wide variety of reasons. So Saturday's decisions have left some hopeful of a new pastoral openness in the Church, yet frustrated by the prospect of a year's delay before it could become reality. Others, by contrast, think it wrong that the Church might change its practice in this way, and regret that the Assembly has not adhered more fully to the traditional view of marriage. We have, in a discussion conducted on all sides with good conscience and good intent, caused one another some degree of hurt.

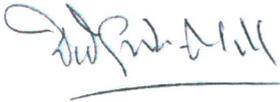
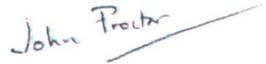
Yet Elizabeth Caswell, who presented much of the business on behalf of the Human Sexuality Task Group, reminded us of the words of Romans 14: 'Welcome one another.' We are not the first group of Christians to wrestle with a divisive issue. Others before us have struggled to cope when they find that sisters and brothers in Christ, people whom they know and love well, disagree with them. The words of Romans speak out of such a situation, inviting us to value the unity of our Church, so that difference of opinion may not weaken important bonds of contact and care.

In the tasks and duties to which you have appointed the three of us, we shall try to be open and faithful to all in the URC. That does not mean that the Assembly Moderators and General Secretary can interact closely with every local church. This support role belongs with Synods, and particularly with their Moderators. But as the Church carries forward the decisions Assembly has made, we shall try to handle 'any discussion that continues with honesty, care and pastoral respect, and to lead in ways that help the people of the Church to value, trust and love one another.

You in turn, as you serve in your local churches and communities, have an important contribution to make, for the good of the Church and the work of the gospel. Part of our distinctive witness as a denomination is that we build bridges when opinions differ. We do this in our own local churches; we do it in our ecumenical work; and we do it across the breadth of the URC as a whole. So we thank and value you, for what you give to this whole. We wish you strength, hope and wisdom, as you carry forward the work of Christ's good news in your locality.

If you wish to reply to this letter, please address your response to the General Secretary and all three of us will then read it.

Yours sincerely,



John Ellis and David Grosch-Miller John Proctor  
Moderators of General Assembly General Secretary

### ***Thank You***

*Dear Friends,*

*Many thanks to all who sent cards, flowers and “Well” wishes by telephone to me, after the accident I had with a cyclist on the way to church on Sunday evening 28<sup>th</sup> June. (The cyclist was not to blame!)*

*It was quite incredible to end up in A & E instead of Central.!*

*I was able to go home again the next morning. Thank God it was not too serious – a cut (glued) on my head and a painful bottom for a few weeks. But I feel quite well again now!*

*Willi Ghoshal*

**CENTRAL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HOVE**

Corner of Ventnor Villas and Blatchington Road, Hove

Church Hall Telephone: 01273 734162

[www.centralurchove.com](http://www.centralurchove.com)

*MINISTER*

Vacancy Advused

*CHURCH SECRETARY*

Mrs K. Hancox

*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.