

*150 Years of Worship and Outreach*

# Central United Reformed Church Hove



December 2015 / January 2016

# 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)**

## **MISSED CHURCH?**

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

## AN ELDER SPEAKS.

*Dear Friends,*

I am writing this in the aftermath of the horrendous happenings in Paris on the evening of 13<sup>th</sup> November, and finding it impossible to understand how anyone, however radicalised, can set out to shoot and kill innocent people. Our thoughts and prayers will have been with all those affected by this terrible tragedy.

How appropriate that on Sunday 15th November, the preacher, Rev. Roger French gave us a rousing service and sermon, reminding us that the Bible was the basis on which the Christian Church must go forward. Take heart, he said, be of good cheer.

Later in the week, another appropriate message came to us at the Thanksgiving Service for Ruth Shepherd who had chosen a Bible reading from John 14 - Jesus talking to his disciples--“Do not let your heart be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me.”

With these encouraging words we can look forward with confidence to the season of Advent, with many Church activities to be supported as we prepare for Christmas. Our Sunday services in December, along with those on the days before Christmas provide us with the opportunity to anticipate the birth of the Lord Jesus in many different ways.

Let us hope then, that in all that we do, Christ will be at the heart of our Christmas.

Then we approach 2016 with renewed hope and much to anticipate as we enter another phase in the life of Central and of the Hove and Portslade Pastorate. We will welcome our new Minister, Rev Sue Chapman, and pray that she will bring new vigour to all three churches as we seek to reach out into our communities.

A Happy and Peaceful Christmas and “A Guid New Year” to all.

*Jim Lyall*



**“WHEN YOU WISH UPON A STAR..”**

**&**

**“MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS”**

As Pam Macaulay, after many years, has felt unable to arrange the Church Christmas Card, which benefited so many local charities, this year, we are going to have a Blessings and Memories Tree instead.

From Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> December, the Blessings Tree will be in the Upper Vestibule. If you would like to hang a star on it as a way of wishing your church friends all the blessings of a Happy Christmas and New Year, instead of giving them cards, hang a *silver* star on the tree.

If you are thinking of people whom you will be missing this Christmas, remember them fondly by tying a *gold* star to the tree.

You can put your name or their name on the appropriate star.

There will be a box for your donations, which this year will go to Leo House at Home, which cares for life-limited children in their own homes, helping to give them the best quality of life for as long as that might be. It also gives parents a few precious hours to themselves or to spend time with their other, healthier children

Leo House at Home spends almost all money raised to fund their nurses. Less than 2p in the £ goes to pay expenses.

Leo House Registered Charity no. 1091541  
[www.leohouse.org.uk](http://www.leohouse.org.uk)

## **TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP**

15th December      CHRISTMAS PARTY with Patricia singing

BREAK FOR CHRISTMAS

***Happy Christmas to All!***

12th January      Rev Andy Lowe

26th January      Police & Crime Commissioner

*We meet at 2.30 p.m. and new members are always welcome.*

## **FAMILY NEWS FROM CENTRAL**

We were so sorry to learn of the death of **Shirley Hamblin**, which happened more suddenly than expected. Shirley had just moved into a new nursing home, after her stroke, and was most comfortable there but had continued to decline. Before her health deteriorated, Shirley had been a regular member of Central, and had been a very energetic person with a ready smile and a keen interest in other people. At one time a regular Scottish Country Dancer, Shirley enjoyed the fun and social aspect of the “art”. We give thanks that she is now at peace and beyond all suffering. To her devoted husband, **Clive**, we extend our sincere sympathy and support him with our love and prayers.

We would also like to offer our love and sympathy to **Roger and Kim Wood** on the death of Roger’s brother.

We are sorry to hear that **Dorothy Gale** has suffered a nasty fall but thankful that she has no broken bones. She is badly bruised and very shaken. We wish her a speedy recovery and hold both Dorothy and her daughter, Linda, in our prayers.

**Angel Eaves**, Ray’s wife, has been diagnosed with having breast cancer, she has come through the operation and is now undergoing a course of radiotherapy treatment. We hope that our prayerful concern will strengthen and sustain her through her fight against this disease.

Regrettably, we have just learned that **Muriel Lewis**, whose good friends, Adrian and Hilary Ball, used to bring her to church, has died. We offer our sincere sympathy to her friends and family.

**Frances Beacham** has returned from a very rewarding mission in Barbados, along with Lynda Hulcoop and a team from Lynda’s Southwick Church. It certainly was not a holiday in the sun – a daily 5.30 a.m. start! Nothing daunted, three members of our Girls’ Club are preparing to go with Lynda, under Parclete International, to Zimbabwe and the Kuwadzana Church and Bible College, with which we have such a close connection and interest. **Keren Hancox, Emma Newman and Rebecca Manley** will be going out there in January. Please pray for them and for the success of their time there, as well as the continued flourishing of the church’s work in Kuwadzana.

Speaking of **Lynda Hulcoop**, who is such a loving, inspiring and supportive friend of Central, we would like to take this opportunity of wishing her a very Happy Big Birthday on 18<sup>th</sup> December when she adds

an 0 to her age. Congratulations, Lynda, and may God continue to bless you in every aspect of your life throughout your new decade. Thank you for all you have done for Central, we rarely express our appreciation but please know how much we value your work and witness.

The next weeks will be very busy ones in the run-up to Christmas, with fairs, parties, Ladies Night, Nativities and Carol Singing and extending the hand of friendship as we share services with our friends from Hove Methodist. The excitement continues well into the New Year, as we anticipate the fun of the Boys' Brigade Old Time Music Hall followed by the arrival and Induction of our new minister, **Sue Chapman** and her husband, Colin, to our Pastorate in February. Please support as many of these events as possible and hold them steadfastly in prayer.

*Fellowship of Prayer:*

*Sheila Lovey and family, Jan Owen, Tebello Sibanda, Peggy McMillen, Clive Hamblin, John Gilson, Ros Ayling,, Ivy Newell, Angela & Ray Eaves.*

**P.S.** We know that **Edith** has got her ticket for the Old Time Music Hall - have you got yours?

## **The Churches of the Hove Pastorate**

Central, Honsom & Portslade URCS

Invite you to

### **The Induction Service**

of

**Rev. Sue Chapman**

As minister of the Pastorate

At Central United Reformed Church,

Saturday, 13th February, 2016 at 2.00 p.m.

And to refreshments afterwards



# Ventnor Old Time Music Hall

**Friday 29th January  
7:30pm**

**Saturday 30th January  
2:30pm & 7:30pm**

Tickets available from  
Sarah 01903 526036  
or  
thetenthbb@hotmail.com  
Adults £5 Child £3



**10th Brighton (Hove)  
Boys Brigade**

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



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



We would like to thank everyone who supported our BB Week and those who came to our Coffee Morning.



We are working hard rehearsing for our Old Time Music Hall - tickets for which are now on sale - in January, although we also try to have some fun as well during each meeting.

Thank you for your support over the past year. We wish you a very happy Christmas and hope to see you in the New Year at the Music Hall.



## GIRLS' CLUB AND CHILDREN IN NEED 2015

A really big thank you to everyone who supported the Pudsey Bear Cake Sale held at Girls' Club one very wet Tuesday evening! Along with the Film Night' donations, when showing 'The Second Best Marigold Hotel', a fantastic £150 was raised by both events!

Well done, girls, I think we might be seeing some of you on Bake Off one day!

We would like to invite our families and church friends to our *Christmas Carols Evening* on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December**. We will be holding the service up in the church at 6.30 p.m. and hope you will join us for festive refreshments afterwards in the hall downstairs.

Everyone at Girls' Club would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and may God bless us all as we seek to serve Him this coming New Year!

*Suzanne Hill*

## OUR LOVELY NEW TOILETS – SO WHAT WAS THE DAMAGE ?!

I think it's more than fair to say that the new toilets and works done in the lobby are a huge improvement on the previous situation. They are clean, bright, accessible and functioning well, so it is now a pleasure to 'spend a penny' !

Speaking of spending a penny, nothing comes cheap and it has cost us a 'pretty penny' to get the results we can all enjoy. And as is the case with many building projects, the initial budget gets stretched with some added extras and unforeseen issues that have to be rectified along the way. With our ever-reducing funds Central didn't have much room to pay for any significant additional costs, so it was with some trepidation that I opened the envelope recently with the final invoice for all the works done !

### **So what did it all cost then ?**

When the project was discussed at Church meeting in February this year, and we agreed to proceed, the cost of the works was £27.4K to be carried out by Woodland Construction, plus £2.7K for Stiles Harold & Williams project management fees (10% of the works)...a total of £30.1K.

Subsequently, we agreed to extend the new flooring into the lobby area which cost an additional £3.2K. As part of this, we managed to negotiate all the ceiling works and lighting in the lobby as well at no extra cost, so that was a good deal.

Then there were some additional costs ('variations' in the trade) which added a further £3.1K to the bill. These included fixing some unforeseen rotted flooring, re-routing pipework, fitting a new hand dryer in the other toilets, new coat hooks, etc.

This took the Woodland Construction costs to £33.7K, and the SHW fees to £3.4K, so in **total £37.1K !**

So, without stating the obvious, that's quite a lot more than we had originally anticipated spending, nice as the end result is ! And putting that in the context of Church reserves of £45K at the start of the year means that we are in a more depleted position than we had anticipated.

Unfortunately, there is a double impact here because, as you are aware, we lost some of our regular hall lets whilst the works were being carried out and so our income will be lower as a result. We need to do all we

can to replace those lost lettings, and the new facilities will be a useful draw in attracting them.

### **An Appeal !**

So, and you know it's coming !..... taking all the above into account I am therefore appealing, on all our behalves, for any donations towards the cost of these facilities which, let's face it, we all have to use. I have already received some very generous donations and I am both humbled and grateful for that sacrificial generosity. I would ask that we all consider if we are able to give anything financially towards these costs.

Thanking you,

Chris Hill

Treasurer

PS. does anyone else find it amusing and ironic that the new lights in the toilets are 'motion' sensitive, or do I just need to grow up ! (sorry Keren, I couldn't resist it).



## **MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

### **Looking Forward To 2016**

Central's Men's Fellowship have been scratching their collective heads in search of inspiration (or divine intervention) when the met recently to plan their programme for 2016. The aim, as always, is to put together a wide range of activities in the hope that at least some of them will appeal to the men of our Church – or the men attached to the ladies of our Church! New members would be made very welcome.

Our programme for 2016 will include some old favourites such as our New Year Party and Bar Skittles Evening plus one or two new ideas (or variations on an old theme)! Approximately half will include "the ladies" and invited guests, with some possibly open to the wider Church. Some will be mildly energetic and some may be more relaxing and informative.

Full details will be publicised when dates, speakers etc have been

## Paraclete Christian Network International

Over the years members of our church have supported Paraclete practically and financially to fulfil the dreams and aspirations of the Trustees who have endeavoured to improve the lives (mainly children) in the Kuwadzana area of Harare in Zimbabwe .

Much has been achieved in the past with us now running a Bible School and an educational establishment for all ages. Sadly some of the children that would like to attend the school are unable to make even the smallest financial contribution and so miss out on their learning. Recently we have sought out a few people who have been willing to sponsor a child which proved to be a godsend to those children who have been given the opportunity of an education, and we would like to extend this facility with more sponsors if possible.

Our Christmas appeal is for enough money to be raised to provide a Christmas Dinner for all the children and their families plus a few food parcels to be distributed to other desperate people.

If you are in a position to help and I know there are many deserving causes out there seeking funds, then please give your donation Gift Aided if possible to me, Adrian Ball or to June Whittle

Thank you so much.



*Flower Rota for December*

6th	Welcome Break
13th	Available
20th	Men's Fellowship
27th	Men's Fellowship

# CHURCH CALENDAR

## DECEMBER

SUN 6	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> <b>GIFTS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE</b> for Brighton & Hove City Mission Family Service - Holy Communion Naomi Mac Bain Evening Worship – The Junction Special Guest: Geoff Harrington	10.30 am    6.30 pm
Thu 10	Brighton Rock Choir Concert	7.30 pm
Fri 11	Hove Rock Choir Concert	7.30 pm
Sat 12	Carol Singing in George Street Meet in church	11.00 am 10.45 am
SUN 13	<b>THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT</b> Family Service Rev Peter Elliott Evening Worship Christmas with the Christian Book Club	10.30 am   6.30 pm
Tue 15	Tuesday Fellowship – Christmas Party (Priscilla Sings)	2.30 pm
Fri 18	Carol Singing at Hove Station With Methodists Ladies Night with Photo Fun	6.30 pm  7.00 pm
SUN 20	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT</b> Family Service – Nativity Carols by Candlelight Followed by refreshments	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Thu 24	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> Crib Service At Hove Methodist, Portland Road Midnight Communion Rev Peter Elliott	3.00 pm  11.30 pm
Fri 25	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> Family Service Rev Peter Elliott	10.30 am

SUN 27	United Service with Methodists At Central No Evening Service	10.30 am
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## **JANUARY 2016**

SUN 3	United Service with Methodist At Hove Methodist Church Portland Road Evening Worship – The Junction	10.30 am 6.30 pm
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SUN 10	Family Service – Holy Communion Rev Peter Elliott Evening Worship Rev Andrew Edwards (Oasis Fellowship)	10.30 am 6.30 pm
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Tue 12	Tuesday Fellowship Rev Andy Lowe	2.30 pm
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Wed 13	Elders' Meeting	7.30 pm
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### **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

SUN 17	Family Service Rev Alex Mabbs United Service at St Patrick's Cambridge Rd	10.30 am 5.00 pm
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Mon 18	United Service at Sacred Heart Norton Road	10.00 am
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Tue 19	United Service at St Andrew's Church Road	6.00 pm
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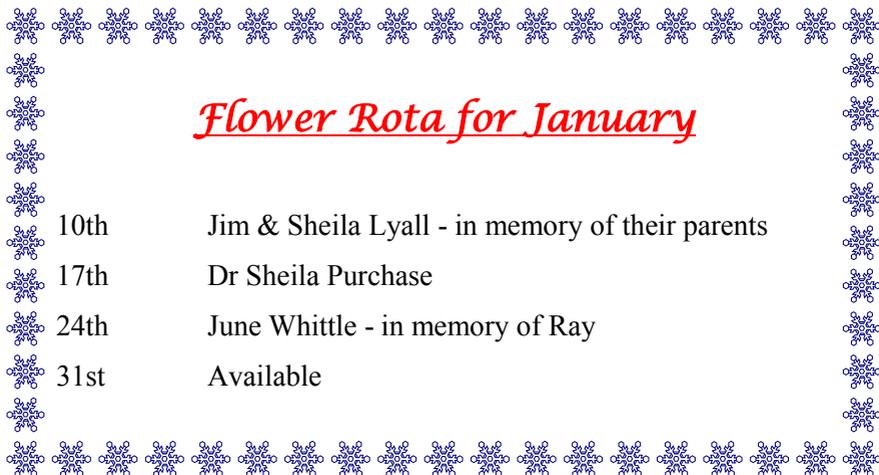
Wed 20	Men's Fellowship Party	7.00 pm
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Thu 21	<b>No Excuse Thursday</b> United Service at Hove Methodist Portland Road United Service at Holland Road Baptist United Service at St John's Palmeira Square	10.00 am 12 noon 7.30 pm
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Fri 22	United Service at St Barnabas Sackville Road	12 noon
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Sat 23	United Service at Coptic Church Davidor Road	10.00 am
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SUN 24	Family Service – Parade Rev. Andy Lowe	10.30 am
	Church Meeting	12 noon
	Evening Worship – Holy Communion Rev. Peter Elliott	6.30 pm
Mon 25	Christian Book Club “The Children’s Act” (Keren Hancox)	8.00 pm
Tue 26	Tuesday Fellowship Police & Crime Commissioner	2.30 pm
Fri 29	BB OLD TIME MUSIC HALL	7.30 pm
Sat 30	BB OLD TIME MUSIC HALL BB OLD TIME MUSIC HALL	2.30 pm 7.30 pm
SUN 31	Family Service Rev Jenny Morgan	10.30 am
	Evening Worship Rev. Peter Elliott	6.30 pm



*Flower Rota for January*

10th	Jim & Sheila Lyall - in memory of their parents
17th	Dr Sheila Purchase
24th	June Whittle - in memory of Ray
31st	Available

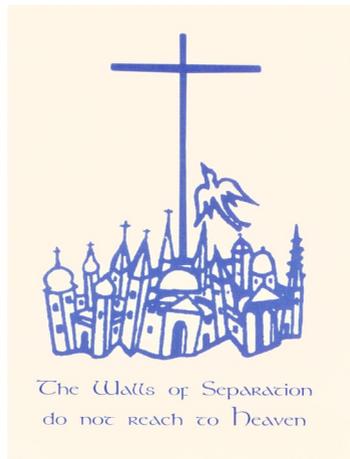
**FEBRUARY**

SUN 7	Family Service Neil Watts	10.30 am
	Evening Worship – The Junction	6.30 am
Sat 13	<b>INDUCTION OF REV. SUE CHAPMAN</b>	2.00 pm

# WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

## 17<sup>TH</sup> – 23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2016

Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	St Patrick's, Cambridge Road	5.00 pm
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Sacred Heart, Norton Road	10.00 am
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	St Andrew's, Church Road	6.00 pm
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Hove Methodist, Portland Road	10.00 am
	Holland Road Baptist	12 noon
	St John's, Palmeira Square	7.30 pm
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	St Barnabas', Sackville Road	12 noon
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Coptic Church, Davidor Road	10.00 am



## GIRLS' CLUB

### *Stop Press!!!*

As we go to press, three of our Girls' Club leaders are preparing to go on a mission to Zimbabwe with Lynda Hulcoop and the Paraclete Christian Network. We are delighted that Keren, Emma and Rebecca have this wonderful opportunity!

They will be working in the pre-school, the main school and doing home visiting. They will also be working with the students on drama presentations, singing and craft activities and sharing the Gospel in different ways. And, as well as all this, they will also be doing a more practical ministry of fixing things, painting, etc..

Unfortunately, as they are leaving at the end of January, we have not yet been able to fund-raise towards the cost of their trip. Therefore, please look out for any future events, which we will be planning in the New Year to help finance the girls. If anyone wishes to sponsor them, any donations would be very greatly appreciated and should be made via the Church Treasurer.

With many thanks,

Suzanne Hill



## YOUR LETTERS

*Dear Friends,*

*We would just like to say we are very grateful for all the messages and love and prayers people have sent us, after losing our beloved son, William Stanton.*

*It has been very comforting to know That everyone has been thinking of us as a family and we would very much like to remain in your prayers as we travel through our journey and rebuild our lives without Will around.*

*The total raised so far for donations to the British Heart Foundation stand in excess of £1,173.00, which is fabulous, as it was a charity very close to his heart and it shows how well loved and popular he was.*

*Thank you all once again and special thanks to Peter Elliott for all his help and understanding, when we were trying to plan Will's funeral. We wanted it to be a celebration of his life through the years and I think we achieved this ten fold.*

*Thank you to Keren Hancox for always being there and Roger and Kim for visiting along with Rosemary Brice and Peter Gear – your input in the last hymn, Peter, was perfect.*

*Once more, our thanks for your love and prayers.*

*Tracey, Richard, Millie, Gill, Graham, Marcus and Michelle*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Dear Friends*

### **Advanced Notice**

*I am excited to be performing my recital, “A Classic Evening with Rebekah Smith” at Central United Reformed Church.*

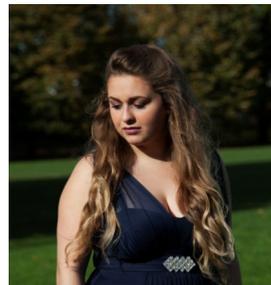
*This is part of my final year towards my Bachelor of Music degree and it would be so lovely to have your support.*

*The date is **Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 pm.***

*More details to follow after Christmas.*

*Much love,*

*Rebekah Smith*



**Southern Synod**

East Croydon URC

Addiscombe Grove

Croydon CR0 5LP

[urcsouthern.org](http://urcsouthern.org).

Christmas 2015,

Dear Friend,

O come to my heart, Lord Jesus.....

So much of our Christmas preparations have been ‘disinfected’ to consist of warm fuzzy feelings. So it is not surprising that we forget that while Christmas celebrates the coming among us of a tiny baby as the Emmanuel, God-with-us, his coming was indeed a sign of contradiction. We understate the fact that Mary, who was heavily pregnant, and Joseph were turned away from the inn because there was no room. We forget the slaughter of the Holy Innocents and that the infant Jesus was spared their fate only through the hurried flight into Egypt where the Holy Family lived in future hope for many years as what today we would call political refugees.

Yet this is the Christmas reality experienced today by the ever-growing number of migrants and refugees throughout the world. There is a humanitarian crisis on our doorstep. The stark reality is that 12 million Syrians have fled their homes because of conflict; half are children. 4 million are refugees. Children affected by the Syrian conflict are at risk of becoming ill, malnourished, abused, or exploited. Millions have been forced to quit school.

More than 700,000 Syrian refugees and other migrants risked their lives this year to travel to Europe. It’s a heartbreaking situation but the headlines scream at us: that most people in the UK don’t want refugees coming here.

It may be difficult to believe, but rather than drawing us closer to God, sometimes Christmas actually draws us away! No wonder the little girl who was praying “forgive us our trespasses” got confused and said, “forgive us our Christmases.” Sometimes we need to be forgiven for our Christmases. We simply leave no room for Jesus.

Over the summer, our family was very fortunate to be able to attend a

conference in Speyer, Germany, entitled “We are one”. During our last night our host Sabine, a social worker, who has befriended a number of asylum seekers, invited them to a barbeque at her home. It was fascinating listening to Malik, Ali, Tariq and Issak, four young men from Pakistan and Afghanistan, tell their story of hurried flight and future hope. All four had been in Germany for over two years, Ali nearly three. All four were still waiting for an interview – an interview which would determine their right to stay. All four were graduates, intelligent young men in their twenties. All had left their homeland because they had to – their life was threatened. Tariq had left a wife and two children and hadn’t seen them for over two years. As Issak said: we would not have left our families and our homes unless we had to.

This is the Christmas reality: we are not one.

This encounter has left me wondering about the significance of ‘no room in the inn’ that first Christmas and for us in 2015. Perhaps one reason there was no room for Jesus was ignorance.

After all, how could the innkeeper know the baby about to be born was the Son of God. Or perhaps the innkeeper was too busy what with everything else that was occupying his time.

The choices which we make as human beings often lead to disaster for ourselves or others. The Christmas story teaches us that the faithful love of God is always seeking better outcomes than human folly dictates.

Christmas is the time we celebrate Emmanuel, this God-with-us, who makes the promise of God’s faithful love real amongst us. This promise stands in a world which gives us cause to grieve as well as to rejoice. It is no accident that the gospel writers are at pains to set the story of the infant Jesus in a world of power politics, fear and injustice.

It is only when we have the measure of such challenges to our lives (such as we did this summer in our encounter in Speyer) that we can truly celebrate the God who comes among us as a helpless child and, in doing so, reveal to the world that the faithful love of God is greater than anything else.

Russell, Cameron and Ross join me in wishing you the gladness of Christmas, which is hope, the spirit of Christmas, which is peace, and the heart of Christmas, which is love.

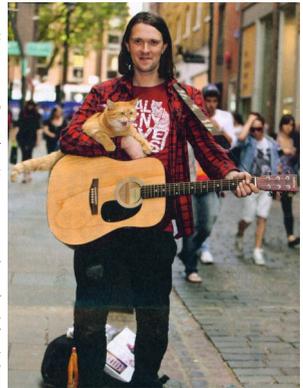
## CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB

The pre-Christmas meeting of the Book Club was quite different from previous ones. Not that we were particularly festive, because it wasn't even December, when we met, but because we seemed to pack so much into the time.

Frances Beacham had missed the previous meeting because she had been away in Barbados with Lynda Hulcoop and a team from her church on a mission journey. She had obviously had an amazing, educational, fulfilling trip and any qualms she had entertained about her ability to witness on the street, in public soon disappeared. The team worked in schools, nursing homes and hotels with a huge age range – from 3 years old to 100 years plus. Frances was just bubbling over with enthusiasm but I do not wish to steal her thunder as she has promised to write about her experiences for the next issue of the magazine in February. Something to look forward to in 2016!

We did eventually get round to discussing the book “A Street Cat named Bob” by James Bowen. Now, if you are not a cat-lover, the front cover's picture of an enormous ginger tom might be a little off-putting, but it is well worth opening the book and starting to read.

This is the true story of how James Bowen and Bob found each other and in doing so changed each other's life. James had been a drug addict and was in the first tentative steps to recovering from his addiction. Bob was a disowned and discarded cat. As their relationship develops James has to take responsibility for caring for someone other than himself, so he has to earn a regular supply of money; he has to get up at regular times to feed Bob and let him out to perform his ablutions, etc.



As he narrates his story we get an insight into the world of those who subsist on the lowest edges of the breadline. We learn about the life of “Big Issue” sellers and the rules by which they are allowed to sell the “Big Issue” – and they are tough and unforgiving. There are also rules about busking in Covent Garden or at Underground stations. And if you think there is a camaraderie among those who do so, forget about it. This is a fight for not even existence but subsistence.

Put away rose-tinted glasses and read about the reality of human beings:

the suspiciousness and the generosity; the kindness and the aggression.

This is not a pretty story. The horrors of “Cold turkey” are ugly. But it is a story told with an innate honesty with no attempts at excuses or self-justification. It is a story of hope, redemption and evokes compassion for those who are not as strong as James managed to become, through his love for a cat.

We all liked the book and became attached to some of the characters, as well as the two main ones. It is told in a simple direct style, which is reminiscent of some of Michael Morpurgo’s books. And it would be antidote to some of the cloying sweetness of Christmas. Remember the reality was that Jesus was born in a stable – almost the streets – and it would have smelled! For some of His early years was a refugee and His parents would have struggled to survive.

“ A Street Cat names Bob” has become so popular that it is to be made into a film. Production started last October – obviously something for a future Film Night.

While our hostess, Clare Popley was making the coffee, the members of the Book Club were kept out of mischief by trying to solve a book quiz, which can be found overleaf on Page 22 . We hope you enjoy it.

Our next meeting is on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January at 8.00 pm in Keren Hancox’s house. The book we should have read by then is “The Children Act” by Ian MacEwen.

All welcome.



**Rock choir concerts**

**10th December Brighton Rock Choir**

**11th December Hove Rock Choir**

**7.30 pm**

**At Central URC**

## BOOK CLUB BOOK QUIZ

The answers to the clues are well-known book titles.

Example: Wicked expanse of water      Answer: The Cruel Sea.

1. Seasonal Song .....
2. This bear smells .....
3. Did Cromwell invent this dance? .....
4. Elegance follows this dark colour .....
5. Small ladies .....
6. Sounds like a plain girl is  
in front of the atmosphere .....
7. Kate Bush's No. 1 hit .....
8. Was he really a terrible tsar with a garden tool? .....
9. Wilddraughtlows .....
10. Period of tuition for a colourful boy .....
11. Captured! .....
12. Religious traveller's advancement .....
13. Could a fortune be found here? .....
14. Homestead for Beasts .....
15. A story of Belfast and Dublin perhaps .....
16. Arrogance and intolerance .....
17. Considerable high hopes .....
18. Dwelling belonging to a male relative .....
19. Was "Green Green Grass of Home"  
his greatest hit? .....
20. Not quite forty paces .....
21. Two of Adam's sons? .....
22. Dreary home .....
23. A library of 66 books! .....

## CENTRAL'S COPYRIGHT LICENCES

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

- (a) ...reproducing (by typing) song words (eg in notices, separate song sheets or for the overhead projector) you need to include at the foot of each song the following details:

*Author, © year ©owner, CCL licence number 12011*

... and inform Chris Hill for the records. If you don't have some of the information, try Chris - he may be able to help!

- (b) ...photocopying words out of a book then you have to acknowledge at the foot of the photocopy the following details:

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**CENTRAL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HOVE**

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*

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*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.