



150 Years of Worship and Outreach

Central United Reformed Church Hove



February-March - 2017

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Sunday Youth Ministry

Mrs. A. Austen

Mrs C. Vaughan

Boys' Brigade
(Mondays)

Mr. C. Jukes

Tuesday Fellowship
(Alternate Tuesdays)

Mrs H Brown

Men's Fellowship
(Third Wednesday)

Mr. P. Gear

Welcome Break
(Wednesdays)

Mrs. P. Macaulay

Bluebird Parent & under 3s Group

Mrs K. Hancox

Church Web Site

Mr John Brewster

Church Hall Tel: 01273 734162

Email: info@centralurchove.com

MISSED CHURCH?

You can listen to the Sunday Morning Service by going to our website:
www.centralurchove.com and hearing the recording.

Dear Friends,

I can't believe that this time last year Colin and I were packing boxes and wondering what being in a new church setting would be like and what we could do together in the service of God. It has been wonderful to get to know you and to begin our work together. The time has gone so quickly, but it has been a new adventure every day. Thank you for your generosity in sharing your care and ideas of what we can do together to share the love of God by reaching out into our community. The preparation has now passed and we are working for the future. Our vision is to see the church grow and to play our personal part in achieving this aim.

At our recent Elders meeting we set three priorities for the coming year; Youth and Children's Work, Church Growth and Worship and Prayer. We will need your ideas and prayer support of how we might approach these areas of Church life, because it is work for all of us to consider. I will be asking you during the next month for your input, so please be ready. You can write your thoughts down, in a note or an e-mail or ring me. This is a very important activity for our church so please give it prayer and consideration time.

We have to begin with building our confidence in God. We need to create an opportunity to "re-tune " ourselves into God's work and this happens on different levels. We can support existing work with prayer but we also need to think about beginning new things.

I have come up with one idea, I will be hosting a fellowship and prayer group, **at the Manse** on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month, beginning on

Tuesday 14 February 2017 at 12.00 noon.

Everyone is welcome!

(Come and share the love!)

Rev Sue

TRAINING

Encouraging Pastoral Care

Tuesday 28 February 2017 7.30 – 9.00

Venue: Hounsom URC

These training Sessions are for **anyone** who has an interest. I look forward to seeing you there.

Rev Sue



You are invited

To

A COFFEE MORNING

Organised by

The Cake Stall

Saturday, 4th March

10.00 am

Ventnor Hall

FAMILY NEWS FROM CENTRAL

Amazing isn't it that having just about recovered from Christmas we are now almost half-way to Easter!

Christmas at Central followed the familiar and loved traditions with little tweaks here and there to keep the beloved story fresh. It was an all-age Nativity play on the morning of 18th December and while there were fewer cherubim, there was more perhaps "realism" but no fewer smiles. Congratulations to the SYM children who still had it under their control and who spoke out clearly and confidently.

Our very special thanks to **Jinny Smith** and **Carl Jukes** for all the work both musically and in organising a choir to lead our Carols by Candlelight service that evening. We are so grateful to them for all the different rehearsals they managed to arrange and for the quality of the singing that night.

Thank you to everyone who helped make Christmas special from the tree to the flowers to the candles, not forgetting the Christmas sweaters which were a treat in themselves. **Carl Jukes** won the men's competition outright. **Chris Hill** and **Denzil Brice** adopted a Tweedledum/Tweedledee approach. As for the ladies, **Celia Elliott** seemed to have the ladies' prize within her grasp only to be pipped at the post at the Carols by Candlelight evening by **Rev. Sue**, who sported a sweater, which lit up! We understand that Carl is already looking for another creation to ensure he retains his first place, so start searching! Only 10 months left.



Thanks also to **Keren Hancox** who had to lead the Midnight Communion Service on Christmas Eve, at the last minute due to **Peter Elliott** suddenly being admitted to hospital with heart problems. Peter had to stay in over

Christmas but is now home under strict orders to take it easy. Now it is Celia's turn to make sure he obeys them, even if he is itching to get going again. We are so thankful that he is back home and attending some church functions once more.

We would like to express our gratitude to all the ministers who have offered so willingly to stand-in for Peter while he recuperates. We greatly appreciate their support. Special thanks also to **Bill Maclean** who has worked so tirelessly to re-arrange the Preaching Plan, which is no easy task at the best of times but in an emergency he has worked wonders.

Peter and Celia's daughter, **Sally**, is scheduled to have an operation in March and they are hoping to be able to go across and help her as she recovers. Please keep all three of them in your prayers that they may all enjoy better health in 2017.

Dorothy Gale was another member who spent her Christmas in the Royal Sussex Hospital. She too is now out and is convalescing in Churchleigh Rest Home in New Church Road. She is looking well, although still suffering some pain.

Please hold **Ann Beach** and her son, **Ian**, in your prayers as he undergoes treatment for cancer, which was just diagnosed at the end of last year. We pray for strength and comfort for Ian, his wife and Ann as they go through this anxious time.

Charlie Steel is scheduled to go into hospital on 8th February for an operation. We pray that all will go well and he will be back quickly amongst all his friends at Central.

Our friend, **Rev. Lynda Hulcoop**, needs our prayerful support as she recovers from the shock of being robbed of a large sum of money by two women in Sainsbury's West Hove. Whilst the police have CCTV pictures of the women involved, Lynda is naturally very upset, especially as the money was to go to Zimbabwe to help Paraclete's work there. So, pray for the work of Paraclete and that Lynda, who is out there at the moment, may find joy and fulfilment in the work of the Bible College and its outreach. We look forward to hearing about her visit later in the year.

2017 is off to a busy start with new projects under way. We have had one very enjoyable and interesting TRAINING evening on "Welcome" led by **Andy Twilley**, who is the new URC Training Officer and very enthusiastic. The second TRAINING evening is on pastoral care and will be held in Hounsom URC on 28th February. It really is worthwhile

making the effort to be there. This is an evening for everyone, not just Elders and Pastoral Leaders.

Rev Sue is starting a new initiative by holding Prayer & Soup meetings at the manse on alternative Tuesdays to the Tuesday Fellowship meetings. So, 2nd & 4th at the manse: 1st & 3rd Tuesday Fellowship.

The beginning of March is even busier. Women's World Day of Prayer is on Friday 3rd at Hounsom 10.30 a.m. and is written by the Christian Women of the Philippines. Please do come and join with 15 churches in Hove and thousands more around the world in a great tsunami of prayer. Men, women and children welcome.

Saturday 4th is the first Coffee Morning of the New Year and is organised by the Cake Stall.

Sunday 5th is not a day of rest but of worship with not only our usual Morning Service at 10.30 but also a big United Area Service in the afternoon when all the URC churches in the area will come together in Central at 4.00 pm first for afternoon tea then for a Service. We are promised that everything will finish by 6.30 pm. BUT there will **not** be an evening service that night.

Please pray for the success of all these events and, in particular, the AGM on 12th March and that God will lead people to respond to our need for new elders.

Never forget all those friends who are in care homes or housebound through frailty or illness. We remember and ask for God's blessing upon them.

Fellowship of Prayer:

John Gilson, Peggy McMillen, Barbara Woolvett, Tebello Sibanda, Ros Ayling



PREPARING FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

12 March 2017 at 12.00 noon

This is to alert you all to this most important meeting which is coming up soon. The church meeting is the decision-making body of the church and we need to prepare carefully.

Elders We will be electing Elders at this meeting. We give grateful thanks to all serving and non-serving Elders who have loved the church family and building in a variety of ways, much of this done unseen to most of us. We are opening the Election process, and any nominations have to be supported by the nominees' signature, to say that they are happy for their name to go forward for election. Please pray for people to fulfil this vital role in church life.

We currently have 2 serving elders but I would like our Eldership to consist of 6 people, if we can manage that. In order to be nominated you must have been a church member for one year and accept being nominated. A good and healthy eldership is vital for the church to thrive and develop and that is what we want as we continue in this new chapter of Church Life.

If you have skills you would like to offer to the church family and would like to stand as an Elder please ask someone to nominate you. If you have questions about the role, and what is involved, then please contact Keren or me for more details.

Church Duties There are numerous tasks involved in supporting a church family and building of this size. I have always believed that each of us have skills that we can offer to our church life and fellowship. It may be that you have been doing a job in the church for many years and feel you would like to stop doing it. It may be that there is a job in the church that you would like to do.

I am a great believer that people should stand down from jobs so that other people can find a job to do. There is tendency to look at a particular job and say, "I couldn't do that job as well as "But we are made differently, so that we can do a job, but do it the way WE do it. There are vacancies for Welcoming duties each Sunday, a person or people to prepare the communion table each month. By joining a rota for

jobs your commitment might not be too onerous and we will achieve our aims and objectives.

Please pray for the preparations of the book of reports as we reflect on how God has encouraged us and changed our faith commitment, to Reach Out into the community.

Rev Sue

ST CUTHBERT'S HOUSING ASSOCIATION

The Final Chapter.

Towards the end of 2016, the legal formalities were completed to formally end St Cuthbert's Housing Association as a charitable trust. Our treasurer was then able to clear the remaining funds (to the benefit of homeless charities and Central URC) and to close the bank account.

So ends nearly 50 years of efforts to provide help to those in need of affordable accommodation. Our hope is that by passing on ownership of the property in Lyndhurst Road to our friends at "Off the Fence", that effort will continue.

Over 20 years ago, the decision was made to disperse surplus funds to other charities who deal with homeless people whilst continuing to provide accommodation for four tenants. Over £110,000 has been distributed in this way, providing financial help to some 15 charities who support the homeless in our city. Central has also benefited from this distribution of funds.

Many members of Central, and of St Cuthberts, have been involved in this project over nearly 50 years and it would be remiss to end without paying tribute to those who have given their time and their talents to this worthwhile cause.

ALL GOOD GIFTS

Anyone visiting Central during December would have seen so many signs that it was Christmas. One of these that always reminds me of the love of God is the Christmas tree. Not only is it attractive in itself, it is also centrepiece for the gifts so generously donated by members of our congregation.

These gifts are given to Fresh Start, a local charity, which creates hampers for distribution to less fortunate families in and around the city.

Fresh Start receives many grateful thanks letters from the recipients. Those below are just a sample of these.

Reading them makes one feel how worthwhile it is to share God's gifts to his people.

If you would like to read more of these letters, see them displayed in the Fellowship Room (aka New Hall) or visit the website www.freshstartbbrighton.org.uk

I would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the Christmas hamper that someone brought from your organisation. To say we were overwhelmed is quite an understatement. The kids could not believe their eyes, I fact we initially thought there had been a mistake and that it was probably for somebody else. Once we opened it we were totally blown away by the love and thoughtfulness that had been put into it. This year has had its fair amount of challenges, to receive such an extravagant hamper was an encouragement beyond words. Thank you from all our heart.

Family of six

I am feeling incredibly humble and blessed. Thank you so much for our beautiful hamper of wonderfulness. You are incredibly thoughtful. My family were so happy with everything you sent us. Thank you.

Mum with 3 children

CHURCH CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

SUN 5	Family Service Bob Jackson THE JUNCTION	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Tue 7	Tuesday Fellowship – Roger Wood Joint Pastorate Elder’ Meeting at Housom	2.30 pm 7.30 pm
SUN 12	Family Service - Holy Communion Rev Sue Chapman Evening Worship Rev. Sue Chapman	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Tue 14	Prayer, Fellowship & Soup The Manse	12.00 noon
Wed 15	Men’s Fellowship Programme Planning & music of choice	7.45 pm
SUN19	Family Service Rev Roger Wood Evening Worship – Holy Communion Rev. Lynda Hulcoop	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Mon 20	Christian Book Club – The Small Miracle (Pam Moody)	8.00 pm
Tue 25	Tuesday Fellowship – Alan Saunders	2.30 pm
SUN 26	Family Service Geoff Harrington Evening Worship Rev. Lynda Hulcoop	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Tue 28	Prayer, Fellowship & Soup The Manse TRAINING – Pastoral Care Led by Andy Twilley At Housom URC	12 noon 7.30 pm



MARCH

Fri 3	WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Service at Hounsom URC	10.30 am
Sat 4	Cake Stall Coffee Morning	10.00 am
SUN 5	Family Service Rev. Roger Wood UNITED AREA SERVICE Afternoon Tea Service Speaker: Rev. Simon Allanby "Refreshing the Faith" No Evening Service at Central	10.30 am 4.00 pm 5.00 pm
Tue 7	Tuesday Fellowship – Bryan Moody Hove at War	2.30 pm
Wed 8	Elders' Meeting	7.30 pm
SUN 12	Family Service – Holy Communion Rev Sue Chapman AGM & Election of Elders THE JUNCTION	10.30 am 12.00 noon 6.30 pm
Tue 14	Prayer, Fellowship & Soup The Manse	12.00 noon
Wed 15	Men's Fellowship TBA	7.45 pm
SUN 19	Family Service Rev Ken Lynch Evening Worship Rev. Lynda Hulcoop	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Tue 21	Tuesday Fellowship Cllr. Robert Nemeth	2.30 pm

SUN 26	MOTHERING SUNDAY Family Service Led by members of Christian Book Club Evening Worship Rev. Lynda Hulcoop	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Tue 28	Prayer, Fellowship & Soup At the Manse	12.00 noon



APRIL

SUN 2	Family Service Stuart Dew THE JUNCTION	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Mon 3	Christian Book Club – The Big Fisherman (Chip Dunn)	8.00 pm
Tue 4	Tuesday Fellowship – Willow Harmony	2.30 pm

All contributions for the **APRIL + MAY** edition of the magazine should be handed in no later than **SUNDAY 19th MARCH**

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.

LENT COURSE

At present full details of the Lent Course with Hove Methodist Church are not available.

We understand that it will begin in the week beginning 5th March.

Full details will be published in the March Bulletin and on Notice Boards

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



Am I
Being
Unfair
to You?

PRAYING FOR
THE PHILIPPINES

Friday 3rd March 2017
ALL ARE WELCOME

**HOUNSOM
UNITED REFORMED
CHURCH**
Nevill Avenue
10.30 a.m.
FRIDAY 3RD MARCH
TAKE ANY NUMBER 5 BUS

www.wwdp.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 233142

Lord, make us realise that Christianity is like a rice field: when it is newly planted the paddies are prominent, but as the plants take roots and grow taller, these divided paddies, gradually vanish, and soon there appears only one vast continuous field. So give us roots that love, and help us to grow in Christian fellowship and service, that Your will be done in our lives, through our Saviour, Your Son, Jesus Christ,. Amen

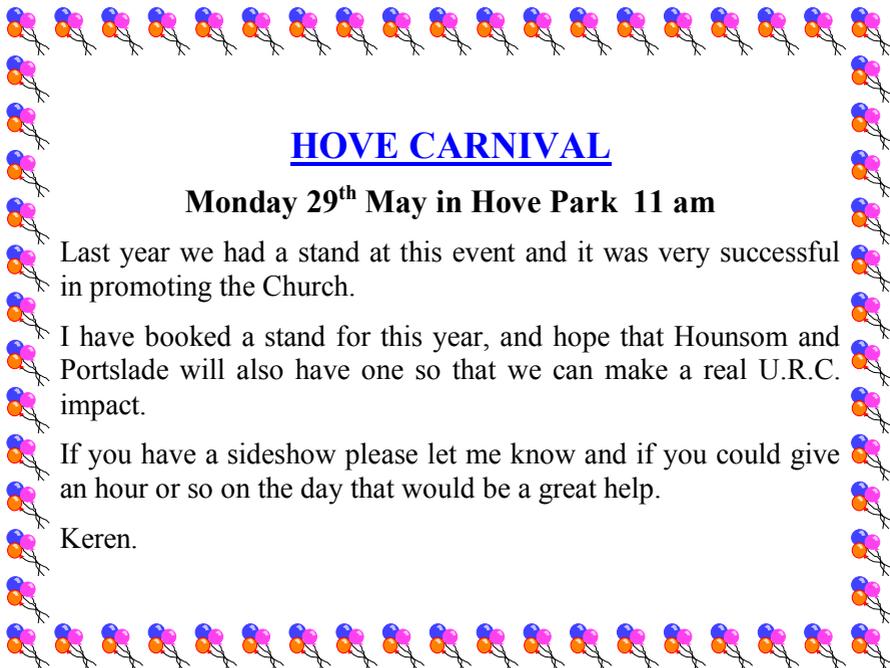
PARACLETE CHRISTIAN NETWORK INTERNATIONAL

Once again members and friends of Central supported our Christmas Appeal, and we were able to send £650 to help those that are attending our Training Centre who have a really hard life. There is a failing economy, a shortage of affordable food, infrequent power supplies, and in their homes a lack of fresh water.

Some of the money raised will have gone towards a Christmas Celebration event with some decent food, singing and dancing which is much appreciated by teachers, workers and scholars alike.

The Rev Lynda Hulcoop and a few supporters are visiting the Training Centre in Kuwadzana at the beginning of February and, no doubt, she will keep us all informed as to the present situation. Your gifts are really welcomed by the Trustees and they wish to thank all those who donated.

Adrian Ball.



HOVE CARNIVAL

Monday 29th May in Hove Park 11 am

Last year we had a stand at this event and it was very successful in promoting the Church.

I have booked a stand for this year, and hope that Hounsom and Portslade will also have one so that we can make a real U.R.C. impact.

If you have a sideshow please let me know and if you could give an hour or so on the day that would be a great help.

Keren.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

As has been their practice for a number of years our Men's Fellowship began the year with a party! Their New Year Party is an opportunity to have a bit of fun, not that their other meetings are any less enjoyable, but this is one of those occasions when we are joined by guests and partners (always a good idea when things have to be done in the kitchen!) and this year we were pleased to welcome Sue and Colin to their first such event.

Our regular Master of Ceremonies and games organisers – Peter and Celia – were given permission to 'stand down' this year and attend as guests but, as we all know, this was only likely to be partly heeded! They came prepared with the obligatory parcel for passing and (before Christmas became a distant memory) Peter conducted a brave rendition of The Twelve Days of Christmas. Hilary and Logan drew the 'short straw' – 'the first day' – and stuck to the task enthusiastically (and musically). Other contributions included a quiz, which tested our knowledge of The Queen, and a Music Quiz. The first being embarrassing (for some) and the latter providing an insight into what ministers get up to in their spare time! It was interesting to discover that Roger's (a previous runaway winner of this competition) knowledge of 'popular' music was matched by that of Sue – best scores with an equal number of points.

Of course no social event at Central is complete without food and an excellent variety of savoury and sweet dishes provided by hosts and guests was shared by all.

The Men's Fellowship meet just once a month offering a variety of activities, some of which include partners and guests from the wider church. We would love to have a few more members so, if you are interested, please have a word with Peter Gear – or just come along to one of our 'open' events which will be publicised in the Church Magazine.



I didn't have to make this!



Listen! I know!

I haven't a clue.



Great Minds.....

CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB

The first meeting of the Christian Book Club in 2017 was a lively one. Not because the book “Nora Webster” was exciting – quite the contrary – but because we disagreed so much about it and how we viewed both the chief character, Nora Webster, (one is hesitant to dub her the heroine) and the author, Colm Toibin’s writing. It was a love-hate situation.

Some of us loved it; others endured it and others wondered why he had written it.

If you like a story with a beginning, middle and end, then this is not the book for you because it has none of these standard features of composition. It starts – but not with any introduction – it wanders through three years of Nora’s life and it stops. And the reader is left waiting for what. It is all remarkably flat.

Nora Webster seems to be defined by the fact that her late husband was a schoolmaster. They had two daughters, who have left home for college/university and a career and two sons, Conor and Donal who are much younger than their sisters. Nora had been a wife and now, upon her husband’s death, she is just a mother and at first not a very good one at that. While married, husband came first, children a distant second and Nora came somewhere well down the pecking order. Some were very shocked that she had just abandoned the boys to her sister whilst her husband was sick in hospital. Maurice would need her and it never seemed to have occurred to her that the boys needed her too whilst they were losing another parent.

We were uncertain whether this was a story about Nora Webster or was she merely a means by which the author could explore the grieving process. How long does grief last? How do you cope with it? How do you cope with the rest of your family and the neighbours? When do you come to your senses enough to realise that others, beside yourself, are grieving and have lost someone dear too?

Nora being to become a person in her own right by having to make decisions about finances, holidays, by getting a job and best of all by discovering music and singing. Her husband isn’t there to tell her what, how and when: she has to it all *herself*.

Like November’s book choice we found that there was a clash of cultures which hindered our understanding or perception of Norah Webster. There is an amazing difference between a small rural town in 1960s Ireland and

Hove 2017 and the expectations of women now and then.

During our next meeting on 20th February at 1, Hartington Villas, we will be preparing for the church service we will be leading in March, so we are keeping the discussion short with our reading of “The Small Miracle” by Paul Gallico.

We don't meet again until 4th April when the book of choice is “The Big Fisherman” by Lloyd Douglas. Our hostess that night will be at Chip Dunn.

Both meetings will be at 8.00 pm.

Please join us at one or both – you will be more than welcome.



YOUR LETTERS

I would like to thank everybody for their good wishes , cards, flowers and presents given to me in December to celebrate my 80th birthday.

It was so lovely to be able to celebrate this occasion with my family and friends. I thoroughly enjoyed myself and hopefully every one who attended my celebrations did as well.

My very best wishes and thanks once again.

Doreen Page.

* * * *

UNITED AREA SERVICE

For

ALL UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES

at

CENTRAL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

VENTNOR VILLAS HOVE

SUNDAY 5TH MARCH

SPEAKER REV SIMON ALLANBY

“REFRESHING THE FAITH”

REFRESHMENTS: 4.00 PM (pun intended)

SERVICE: 5.00 PM –ISH

FINISHED BY 6.30PM



THE LIFE OF CHRIST.

AT WINTERSHALL.

Saturday 24th June 10 am -3.30 pm

The event takes place on the Wintershall Estate. It is in three acts following the life of Christ. Central are hiring a coach to go to this wonderful event.

The coach will leave about 8 am from Central and will be back about 5.30 pm - 6 pm.

You should take a picnic lunch and a chair or rug.

Hot and cold drinks and snacks can be bought

And there are toilets!

The coach will cost about £11 per person and the tickets are £20. (There are concessionary rates)

There are electric buggies if you feel the walking might be too much. These must be booked.

Not only is this an amazing and moving event, it is a great chance for us all to have a great day out.

Should you wish to learn more about this, look at the web-site:
www.wintershall-estate.com.

Or ask Keren.

Central members and friends will have the first option on the coach before we offer seats to others.

Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amos 5:25

He has told you, O Mortal, what is good:
And what does the Lord require of you
But to do justice, to love kindness,
And to walk humbly with your God Micah 6:8

He did not say:
You will not be troubled,
You will not be belaboured;
You will not be disquieted;
BUT He said: You will not be overcome.

Lord, there is nothing in our world which is hidden from your eyes.
You see those whose benefits have shrunk to nothing,
And those whose disability allowance fall short of their daily needs.
You see those who apply for hundreds of jobs with never an interview or even a reply.
You see the high-fliers with their huge bonuses measured in millions,
And the low paid outsiders facing poverty.
You see those choosing beautiful second homes, and those sleeping in cardboard boxes in doorways.
You see families who have been evicted and live out their days in temporary accommodation.
You see parents creeping in shame to the food-bank, when their income falls short yet again
Help us to see too.
Lord Jesus, give us your compassion, your generosity of mind and your free giving spirit.
Help us to see through your eyes without prejudice and selfishness.
Amen

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

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Church Hall Telephone: 01273 734162

www.centralurchove.com

MINISTER

Rev. Sue Chapman

CHURCH SECRETARY

Mrs K. Hancox

TREASURER

Mr. C. Hill

COVENANT & FREEWILL OFFERING SECRETARY

Refer: Secretary/Treasurer

ORGANIST & CHOIR MASTER

Vacant

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.