



*150 Years of Worship and Outreach*

# Central United Reformed Church Hove



**October + November - 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](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.

## *Dear Friends,*

Thank you for all the prayers and support you have given to Colin and me as I have recovered from my stroke. I am back to normal, but I still get tired so I have to pace myself, but my brain is working well and all my check-ups have gone very well. I know that my speedy recovery is the result of your prayers so keep on praying for us and for those you care for. It does make such a difference knowing you have that love and prayer support of your church family.

But while I have been “confined to barracks”, I have had time to think about life, about our ministry together to the community we serve and the future that God has for us, and I have come up with some ideas. I can hear you saying, “Oh no!” but please hear me out.

I have had to do some exercises to strengthen my grip and created new pathways in my brain to detour the damaged part and make connections. One of my exercises was to pick up pegs and place them on the side of a jug one at a time and then take them back off again. At first it felt almost impossible to put eight pegs on. It was exhausting and my head ached. But over time, it became easier and quicker! The result of which was that new connections were made and life returned to “normal”. And it got me thinking, “If the brain can make new connections and pathways, as human beings we should be able to overcome the obstacles that are set in our path. After all, we are wonderfully made by our creator God and with God all things are possible!” I am convinced that all our hard work is rewarded by God, often in ways that surprise us. Combined with the love, prayers and support of our Church Family then nothing should hold us back from sharing the Good News of God’s Love.

Here is an exercise to try for yourself; When you meet friends, neighbours or strangers, “Smile, your charming smile, say good morning and if you are able to ask if they are well. It might feel odd at first but then it will become part of what do you, who you are and over time, may be the stranger might become a friend. We can all be blessed with new friends, so give it a try and give God the chance to change you, day by day. Let me know how it’s going for you and give me one of your unique smiles while we share together.

Glad to be back in the harness of God’s ministry among you,

*Sue X*

## **STAMPS FOR CHARITY**

Please continue to save your used postage stamps. They can be given to Celia Elliott or taken to Attree & Kent, Funeral Directors in Church Road, where they are collecting them for Canine Partners in Midhurst, who train and fund assistance dogs. A few years ago we took a church outing there.

*Celia*

## **JOINT URC SERVICE**

The second joint URC service for churches in the Brighton & Hove area will be on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October**, at St Martin's Saltdean.

Commencing at 4pm the service will be followed by tea.

There will not be an evening service at Central that night.

If you need transport please speak to Keren and we will try and arrange it.

Carl will be playing the organ and we will take part in the prayers.

## **FAMILY NEWS FROM CENTRAL**

Let's start with some good news as we begin another year at central. Our minister, Rev. Sue, is on the mend and she has made such good progress that the doctors have given her limited permission to take up her ministerial duties once more. Please note the use of the word "limited" i.e., one session per day. Although Sue herself will readily admit that she tires easily, she is champing at the bit to get going. It was, therefore, a great pleasure to have her lead our Harvest Thanksgiving Service and enjoy her enthusiasm once more.

Our grateful thanks to all who contributed so generously to the cost of flowers, those who provided foliage from their gardens – a real blessing, those who brought gifts of food and fruit for distribution and the wonderful team of Ann, Clare and Carol, who so deftly and quickly arranged the decorations.

In the past month two of our former young people have married. (Not to each other!) We wish Emma Wickens, Matthew King and their respective spouses every, happiness, fulfilment and blessing in their marriages.

John Gilson has now moved into a nursing home outside Worthing and we pray that he will settle well and be comfortable there.

We have missed the smiles and company of Molly Fraser and Betty Briggs over the summer months and are sorry to hear of the pain and poor health they are suffering. We pray that they may soon find some relief and may be back with us soon.

Celia Elliott too has been having a very rough time over the past weeks, After suffering a fall in which she broke several ribs and spent four nights in hospital, she has since contacted pneumonia – very painful. Her recovery is slow and it will be some time before she is out and about once more. We send her our love and surround her with our prayers. We think also of Peter as he undertakes her nursing care.

Congratulations to our Boys' Brigade Company on their success in the Battalion Sports when they finished 30 points ahead of their nearest rivals. Their new trophies will be on display soon. They had a very successful and moving Monday Parade Service and once again their singing was great, which augurs well for the Old Time Music Hall next January. The new Battalion President was there and we trust he was impressed.

This year we mark two special anniversaries: the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the start of The Reformation, when Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg Germany and without which we would not be celebrating the Ordination of Constance Coltman as the first woman in Britain into a mainstream denomination.

We can't believe we are talking about Christmas already, but please don't forget the Christmas Fair on 2<sup>nd</sup> December (Before the next magazine) and add another date to your diaries – December 16<sup>th</sup>, when there is to be a wonderful Christmas Concert, co-ordinated by Carl Jukes, with Alan Ireland, Jinny and Graham Smith and other friends performing.

Please hold all these friends in your prayers and also the following who need our prayerful support:

*Wendy Blackburn. John Gilson, Tebello Sibanda, Barbara Wolvett, Dorothy Gale and Molly Fraser, Betty Briggs, the Elliott & Marteau families.*

### **FLOWER ROTA FOR OCTOBER**

- 8<sup>th</sup> Pam Stringer – in memory of Andy
- 15<sup>th</sup> Available
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Boys' Brigade
- 29<sup>th</sup> Available



### **FLOWER ROTA FOR NOVEMBER**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Available
- 12<sup>th</sup> Pam & Alasdair Macaulay – in memory of their parents
- 19<sup>th</sup> Pam Moody
- 26<sup>th</sup> Available





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



The new session has begun strongly with our retaining of the Battalion Shield at the postponed Battalion Sports Competition at Withean Stadium on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Not only were we successful over all but we also won the 4X4 Senior Relay Cup and James Blomfield won an individual medal for gaining the most points in his age group.

Well done to all the Boys who participated and our thanks to our supporters.

We have also had our first Monday evening Parade Service of the new session up in the Sanctuary when our speaker was Peter Gear, who in the course of his Scottish holiday visited Thurso, which is the birthplace of the founder of the Boys' Brigade, William Alexander Smith. In 1883 he started the first Boys' Brigade Company in Glasgow. Sixteen years later in 1899 this company, the Tenth, was founded in Hove. The Boys' Brigade is now a world-wide organisation and the Tenth is still going because of one man's vision, the seed he sowed and the deep roots of faith, discipline and personal development it has grown.

We would be delighted to welcome church friends to any of these Parade services. We hope to join the congregation on parade on Remembrance Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> November.

Although it seems some time away, please note the date of our **Coffee Morning, 25<sup>th</sup> November, 10.30 a.m.** When, as part of our BB Week, we try to raise funds. We look forward to your support.





**The Retreats Fellowship**  
*of the United Reformed Church, **Southern***  
**Synod**

This Fellowship is open to **all** who want to deepen their relationship with God through prayer, reflection and silence and who would value the encouragement of others.

**Our Final Quiet Day for 2017**

will be on

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**at Hassocks United Reformed Church**  
**23 Keymer Road, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6**  
**8AB**

**Enabler : Reverend Darryl Sinclair**

Cost £8 Members, £10 non-members (bring packed lunch, drinks provided)

**Further details from :**

John Gordon 01323 845380 revjohngordon@btinternet.com

Kathy Shaw 01322 557 656 kathy.shaw316@btinternet.com

Ken Lynch 01243 862801 kenneth@lynches.org.uk

# **CELEBRATING THE ORDINATION OF CONSTANCE COLTMAN**

## **A Century of Women's Ordination**

On September 17th 1917, at the height of the First World War, Constance Todd was ordained to the congregational ministry at the then King's Weigh House in London. She was ordained alongside her fiancé, Claud Coltman, and they were married the following day. Together, they took up the ministry of a mission in the East End of London, serving a very needy community.

She applied to study theology at Mansfield in 1913. It was an entirely male institution at the time, and there was no provision for a woman to study there, nor any expectation that a woman could be ordained and enter ministry, though the issue was under discussion in the Congregational Union.

However, then as now, the call to ministry, in congregational churches, was entirely in the hands of the local church meeting, seeking, then as now, to discern the mind of Christ in the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, so the principal at the time, W.B. Selbie accepted her for training, so that it would be open to a church to call her to its ministry. And four years later, on completion of her theological training, that is what happened.

Constance and Claud served a number of churches together, during a long ministry. The way was not always smooth, and Constance retained her radical edge, as a pacifist, supporter of women's suffrage, and with a passionate care for the poorest and most disadvantaged of her church members.



# CHURCH CALENDAR

## OCTOBER

SUN 1	Family Service Neil Watts Evening Worship – THE JUNCTION Holiday Memories!	10.30 am  6.30 pm
Mon 2	Inter Faith Prayers at Hove Methodist Enter by front door	6.00 pm
SUN 8	Family Service Central Men’s Fellowship Evening Worship Rev Lynda Hulcoop	10.30 am  6.30 pm
Tue 10	Tuesday Fellowship Rev Andy Lowe	2.30 pm
SUN15	Family Service Rev Peter Elliott United Service at St Martins URC Saltdean Followed by Tea. No Evening Service at Central	10.30 am  4.00 pm
Mon 16	Half Term - No Bluebird	
Tue 17	Half Term - No Bluebird Elders’ Meeting at The Manse	7.30 pm
Wed 18	Men’s Fellowship Minister’s Evening	7.45 pm
Fri 20	} Eastbourne BB Camp }	
Sat 21	} Eastbourne BB Camp }	in Halls*
Sun 22	} Eastbourne BB Camp }	
SUN 22	Family Service - Holy Communion Rev. Sue Chapman Evening Worship – Holy Communion Rev Peter Elliott	10.30 am  6.30 pm
Mon 23	Half Term - No Blue bird	
Tue 24	Half Term - No Bluebird Tuesday Fellowship – Clock Tower Sanctuary Susie Hudson	2.30 pm

Wed 25	Christian Meditation At Hove Methodist (enter by side door)	7.00 pm
SUN 29	REFORMATION SUNDAY 500 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Reformation Special Thanksgiving Service Evening Worship Rev Sue Chapman	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup>	Christian Book Club – Conclave (Pam Moody)	8.00 pm

## **NOVEMBER**

SUN 5	Family Service Roger French (Paraclete Ministry) Evening Worship – THE JUNCTION	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Mon 6	Inter Faith Prayers Hove Methodist (enter via front door)	6.00 pm
Tue 7	Tuesday Fellowship Shirley Parker	2.30 pm
Wed 8	Elders' Meeting	7.30 pm
SUN 12	REMEMBRANCE DAY BB Parade Family Service Rev. Sue Chapman Evening Worship Rev Lynda Hulcoop	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Wed 15	Men's Fellowship Planning for 2018	7.45 pm
Sat 18	CHURCH LIGHT DAY	from 3.00 pm
SUN 19	BB WEEK Family Service Rev Peter Elliott Evening Worship Rev Sue Chapman	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Tue 21	Tuesday Fellowship – John Wesley Cynthia Tudor	2.30 pm
Sat 25	BB COFFEE MORNING	10.30 am

SUN 26	Family Service – Holy Communion Rev Sue Chapman Church Meeting Evening Worship – Holy Communion Rev Peter Elliott	10.30 am  12 noon 6.30 pm
Mon 27	Christian Book Club – Christmas Musings ( Chip Dunn) Please note change of time.	6.30 pm
Wed 29	Christian Meditation Hove Methodist (enter by side door)	7.00 pm

## **DECEMBER**

Sat 2	CHRISTMAS FAIR	10.00 am
SUN 3	GIFTS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE Family Worship Rev John & Rev Andrea Irvine Evening Worship – THE JUNCTION	10.30 am
Mon 4	Inter Faith Prayers Hove Methodist Church	6.00 pm
Tue 5	Tuesday Fellowship – Music Ken Smith	2.30 pm

*\* During the weekend 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> October a group of BB from Eastbourne will be camping in our halls. Please, do not come into the premises during this period. If you have urgent business in the church make yourself known to the Staff in charge.*

All dates and times given here are correct at the time of going to print. Any changes or additional meetings will be given in Orders of Service in the preceding week.

All contributions for the **DECEMBER + JANUARY** edition of the magazine should be handed in no later than **SUNDAY 19th NOVEMBER.**

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.

## **CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB**

Margaret Creasy is missing. Jesus is in a drainpipe. There is a heatwave. Grace and Tilly set out to find God in The Avenue.

Matthew 25 vv 31 – 46.

Do you remember the summer of 1976? What you did or most importantly the weather? We began the first meeting of the Book Club by reminiscing about that summer of '76. Apparently there was a heat wave, which lasted for months and was vividly remembered, as was Angel Delight and other more personal recollections. Mostly it was reviewed favourably and with laughter. Our book of choice, "The Trouble with Goats and Sheep" was set in that glorious summer, although behind all the events of that time hovered the dark cloud of 1967.

The main two characters are Grace and Tilley, two ten-year-old girls, who observe and question the adults in the Avenue as part of the girls' summer project of finding God. It is partly because of their literal understanding of the Bible and the vicar's sermons as taught in their local church that they embark on their quest to find and see God and Jesus, as a bonus. After all, they have been told that God is everywhere so why can't they find Him? Unfortunately the behaviour of the adults and indeed even their silences before answering their most simple question leads them to believe that God is not in any of the houses in their avenue. The one person who talks to them simply and sensibly is the street's outcast, Walter Bishop. In their talking with Eric Lamb about gardening, the reader is given pause for thought and the girls an answer to one of their questions.

As we meet the inhabitants of the Avenue, the reader comes to realise that, behind their so-called middle class respectability and net curtains, the inhabitants are to various degrees, damaged souls. So much so that it is easy to discard them all as goats, when they mostly consider themselves to be sheep.

This book is one of the gentlest, yet insightful books we have read. It is so cleverly written with turns of phrase which moved us to laughter and tears yet it has a depth of thoughtfulness which can reduce the Faith Versus Works debate to two pages, despite what theologians have written prolifically for years.

Joanna Cannon can paint a picture in a telling phrase. After church Mrs Morton, "Had been absorbed by a band of efficient women in hats." And

we immediately knew what those hats looked like.

When it comes to the question of who is most entitled to sit next to Jesus (in the drainpipe) the verbal battle between Mrs Forbes and Mrs Roper is something to behold. To Mrs Forbes claim that she is entitled to the deck chair, Mrs Roper says, “It takes more than a duster and a can of Pledge to make someone respectable.”

Beyond the comedic quarrels, just a few pages on there is a poignant conversation about why Jesus was crucified and it pulls the tone of the book back into serious mode.

This is the book’s power that it can switch from comedy to tragedy to thought provoking depth. We loved the two girls, Grace and Tilly and their innocent ignorance yet blind faith and insightfulness.

Those of us who had read the book earlier in the year and liked it, enjoyed it even more the second time around and, yes, we would be happy to read it a third time. Highly recommended.

A change of pace in October will cause us to read “Conclave” for our next meeting which will be at Pam Moody’s home, on 30<sup>th</sup> October at 8.00 pm. All welcome.

## **INSPIRATION IN YOUR IN-BOX**

Every day of the year, early each morning, the URC sends out, by email a daily devotion consisting of a reading, reflection or short prayer. You can read them on your computer, phone or tablet and they provide inspiration for your in-box.

The devotions are written by a team of over 90 people from a range of perspectives and places within the URC.

If you would like to receive them you can sign up to

<http://tinyurl.com/URCDailyDevotions>

and filling in the form.

## YOUR LETTERS

*Dear friends at Hove Central URC*

*Our 14 year old grandson Joe has asked us to “Thank You” all for your prayers love and concern for him over the past year.*



*As you know he was diagnosed with Crohn’s disease in August 2016 and he has had an up and down medical journey ever since. His initial treatment was no food for 6 weeks, only a drink of 2.1/2 litres a day of Modulen, a nutritionally complete powdered feed made up into a drink with water. After that he was allowed to introduce a little food avoiding certain things but still drinking 1 litre of Modulen a day. This 6 weeks treatment has to be repeated every time the Crohn’s flares up. He also has to have a blood test every two weeks. He has had one bad experience when he contracted MRSA and had to have very strong antibiotics and because he did not respond to that, had to then go onto steroids because his immune system was so very low. That course ended in the middle of August this year and Joe now seems like his old self and at present is able to attend school every day – but still drinking his daily litre of Modulen !*

*As at the time of Adrian’s cancer operation it made us fully recognise the power of prayer so we both thank you, as well, for ALL your prayers for Joe.*

*Hilary & Adrian*

\* \* \*

*Thank you all for the cards and flowers and messages following my fall and subsequent pneumonia.*

*I am making slow progress and the doctor says it will take quite a long time to recover fully but your love and prayers have been a great comfort.*

*Celia*

## **REFORMATION 500 YEARS ON**

Five hundred years ago, Martin Luther presented his 95 theses about the church and its need for reform. Five centuries on is an exciting time to reflect on what we bring forward from the past that strengthens us and future generations for the coming 500 years of ministry of the gospel of Christ.

### ***Why reform?***

Although the phrase “*ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda, secundum verbum Dei*” (“the church reformed, always being reformed, according to the word of God”) does not originate in the Reformation, we return to it as a watchword because it is accurate to that watershed moment. In times of crisis, challenge, and conflict - then and now - God calls us to be transformed by the Word and Spirit.

As Christians, our faith began with the followers of Jesus. But the beginning of our Christian faith as a Reformed Church is in the Reformation. The Reformation marks something significant for us in this part of the universal church: the coalescence of our focus on the Holy Spirit’s ongoing reform of us as a church and as individuals. Martin Luther helps us to understand and acknowledge that the institution of the church is not equal to God. We are called to worship the triune God alone, to claim Jesus Christ as Lord of the church, and to seek the ongoing sanctification of the Holy Spirit.

God’s ongoing sanctification of us is a gift for how we live together as the church, responding to God. This is why serious study of scripture for all people is an ongoing practice, in addition to communal worship and celebration of the sacraments. This is why we place such a high value on communal discernment in committees and sessions and decision-making. And while we have so much to learn, it is why our habits of conversation push us to listen to every single voice God brings into our midst.

It is no wonder that the Spirit of the Reformation has drawn so many Reformed congregations into social justice. There is not a square inch of this world that does not belong to God and that God does not love. Protestants have long been marked by a passion for and commitment to education for just this reason. Learning how God’s world works is an opportunity for praise. Learning about unjust, sinful situations and systems that could be righted and healed is an opportunity for glorifying God by honouring the commandments to love God and our neighbour.

And so we take systems and situations of sexism and racism very seriously. While we stumble and err and sin along the way, we strive toward the real-life freedom of grace in Christ for all people.

Furthermore, the world that God loves is not just the world of people, but all that is, all that God has created. Our climate is changing, and we may disagree on why, but there are (at least) two things we know. First, God gave us stewardship of this earth that God called good. Second, no matter why the climate is changing, people are suffering from drought, famine and natural disasters in our time. Our call from Jesus himself is to go to those who suffer and care for them — feed, shelter, clothe, visit them and give them water to drink.

“According to the word of God” means that we remain open to the work of the Holy Spirit in our whole selves — heart, mind and soul. We have recognised for centuries that our Christian life is not just study and it’s not just action: these two aspects of who we are (and they’re not the only two) constantly deepen each other. The more we practice love for one another - the more we understand what love of neighbour is. And the more we understand what love of neighbour is, the more we can teach others and the more we know how to learn from others about the love of neighbour.

Our response to God’s grace is for us in Jesus Christ and reveals our gratefulness in our words and deeds. We read in Scripture that we cannot say we love God while we hate our neighbour. If we are being reformed by God according to the word of God, then we “do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God.” We seek the well-being of others, “the welfare of the city in which we live, for in its welfare, we find our welfare.” How we fulfil Christ’s two greatest commandments to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and our neighbours as ourselves makes all the difference. How do we return God’s love?

We return God’s love in worship where we also receive the Triune God’s presence within and among us.

We return God’s love through offering our gifts and tithes.

We return God’s love into the world by actually loving others — all others, for all are our neighbours.

Because of the joy and call in Christ that we experience, we return love to God by gladly sharing our faith in teaching and formation.

I have heard it said that when we pray for God’s kingdom to come we are

also praying that we let go of our own. That is the real test of how well our reformed tradition has soaked into us: We worship God, the Triune God, not a denomination or a structure or a book. The God who is through all, in all, and over all is also the God of our conscience. We seek God's disruption of our corrupt ways of worshipping other gods with our lives. The leaders of the Reformation would rather we honour God than them.

**Soli Deo gratia!**

*Commemorate Reformation Sunday on October 29, 2017*

**LIGHT DAY at CENTRAL**

**Jesus Light Of the World.**

The Light Day will be on Saturday 18th November. From 3 p.m..

There will be arts and crafts to suit all ages. Making lanterns.

Making Christingles, Rainbows, Rockets. Scratch art.

Assembling model Solar Systems.

Dark room with glow in the dark stars, bracelets etc.

Refreshments. Finish with singing.

Each art "area" will have a light verse to read.

Please come and bring your friends for a fun afternoon.

Any queries ask Keren



**CHRISTMAS FAIR**

**SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER**

**10.00 a.m.— 1.00 p.m.**

**Various Stalls Coffees Teas Light Lunches and more**

## Coming in January 2018 ...

*The Story: The Bible as one continuing story of God and his people.*

This book tells the grandest, most compelling story of all time: The story of a true God who loves the children of creation, who establishes for them a way of salvation and provided a route to eternity. Each story in 31 chapters reveals the God of grace - the God who speaks; the God who acts; the God who listens; the God whose love for people culminated in the sacrifice of Jesus, his only Son, to atone for the mistakes of humanity.

We will be using this in the services in 2018 to help us fix on How God interacts with humanity and each one of us, as individuals, church family and in community.

There is also a workbook, which can be downloaded, so copies can be reproduced for those who want to do personal study or get together to talk to others. We will produce a sample for you to consider. It could be a "new habit" to cultivate! Please give it your best thoughts.

Rev Sue



**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*

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.