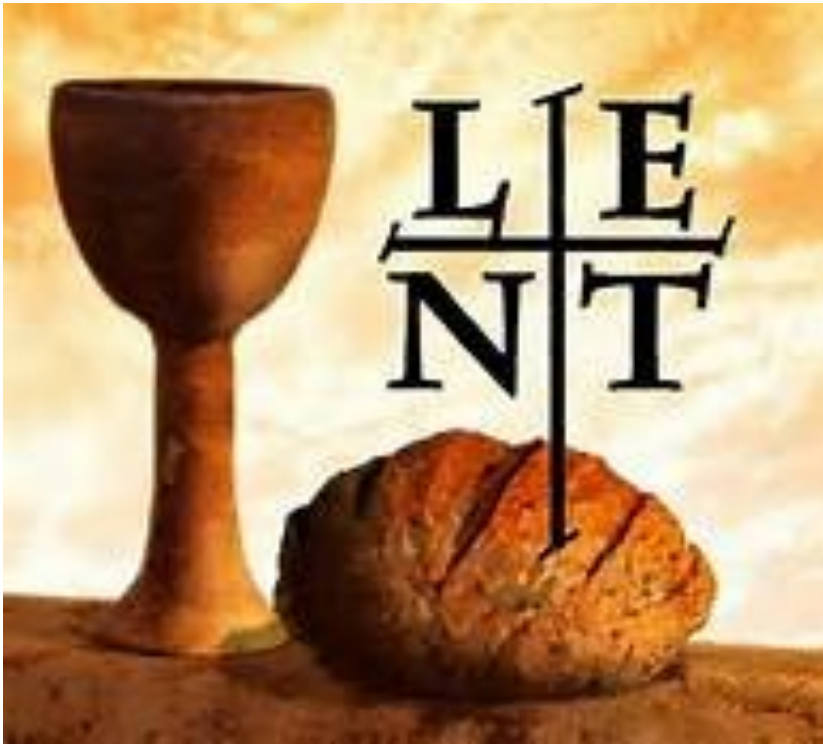


150 Years of Worship and Outreach

Central United Reformed Church Hove



February + March 2018

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Sunday Youth Ministry

Mrs. A. Austen

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 have just finished performing in the Boy's Brigade Old Time Music Hall. It was so much fun. I was so impressed by the dedication and commitment of Staff and boys alike to achieve such a polished performance. Well done to all! And Well done to the wonderful audiences who gave unfailing support. Thank you all!

Over the last week or so, as the performances got closer, the Boy's got into their performances and showed maturity, dedication and commitment. They went about their tasks with confidence, putting their trust in the staff members who helped them to hone their skills and talents. It was a joy to behold the teamwork between them and that gave me the confidence I needed to play my part in the proceedings for my first time. The whole thing got me thinking about church life and I realised a few things that I think we take for granted.

Each participant took to their task and determinedly did the best they could, resulting in the wonderful show we witnessed. Each had a part to play and they supported each other to achieve the objective. This is also true for each one of us as we seek to build the church in the Love of God. We are individuals who work together to bring out the best and the confidence in each other to share our faith in love and in action. How successful we are in sharing what God has given us will determine our future life and witness. The boy's practised and practised to give a great performance and we, as the church, need to practise our faith, so that we become more confident and bold in God. One of the resources the URC national church are giving us is a book, written by a Methodist Minister called Andrew Roberts, called *Holy Habits* which encourages readers to develop patterns of discipleship that lay the foundation for our faith and keep us fresh and confident. The 10 areas that Roberts concentrates on are as follows:

Bible Teaching	Fellowship Prayer	Breaking Bread
Giving Service	Eating together	Gladness & Generosity
Worship	Making Disciples	Daring to Dream.

You will be pleased to know that some of the ideas that we came up with at the church meeting covered some of the areas and that is a good start and a foundation to build on this year. During this year we will be

exploring these areas in a variety of ways, so, please think about how these topics might act on your "faith in action". I hope that at the end of this year we will be able to look back and discover what God has encouraged us to be and to do in God's power as the Church of Jesus Christ.

One of the things you can decide is to join us and Hove Methodist Church in our Lent Course this year, at HMC on Mondays at 8pm and at Central on Wednesdays at 2pm. Why not put the dates in your diary and come along to share your faith with the others who gather together.

Thank you again, Boy's Brigade and staff members for giving your best in the Old Time Music Hall and inspiring us to give our own dedication to God.

Sue X

Invitation to a Thanksgiving Service
to celebrate the life of

Dick Dench

on

Saturday 10th February 2018

at 2.00 pm

in Central United Reformed Church

Ventnor Villas Hove BN3 3YF

All welcome

Refreshments to follow

FAMILY NEWS FROM CENTRAL

On 3rd December, we learned the news that **Dick Dench** had died quietly and peacefully. Although not unexpected, it is still a shock when someone who has been a pillar and stalwart member of the church for so long has passed away. Along with his daughters, **Ann and Pamela**, we draw strength from knowing that he got his wishes right to the end and that a life which was becoming increasingly difficult had ended with the sure and certain knowledge that he had moved to a better, eternal one. Over the past weeks we have surrounded Pam, Ann and all Dick's family with our love sympathy and prayers, and they know we will continue to do so. It says much for Dick's influence that they both, along with Carl, his grandson, continued to fulfil their roles in making the Christmas Concert and BB Old Time Music Hall such successes. (A fuller tribute to Dick appears elsewhere in the magazine.)

Alasdair Macaulay spent Christmas in hospital. After a bad fall, which broke his pelvis and had to be operated on, Alasdair contracted an infection, which prolonged his stay. Having recovered sufficiently to be discharged, he is now convalescing in Knowle House. We are asked by his family that no one should visit him, without first consulting Pam as his condition still tends to fluctuate. Please pray for **Alasdair, Pam, Fiona, Kirsty and Bruce** during these difficult weeks as they seek to do what is best for Alasdair.

Chip Dunn is recovering at home from an operation. She is in good spirits and we hope that all continues to go well. We send her our prayers and good wishes for a speedy recovery.

John Gilson is still in his nursing home and is making progress. His speech is improving but his other physical difficulties from his stroke remain.

Many of our older friends are daunted from coming to worship because of the break down of the lift and we miss them – as they do us, we know. At the moment, until we see our way forward, there will be a small place in the Fellowship Room to which the service will be transmitted and afterwards they can meet with friends and have coffee. It is not ideal but we pray that it is only temporary.

Please hold the financial situation regarding the lift prayerfully before the Lord so that he will guide the Elders, Building and Financial Committees and the congregation to the right way forward.

Congratulations to the Staff and Boys of The Tenth on the success of their Old Time Music Hall. They set out to raise £600 for Alzheimers Society and broke all records to raise £1000! Great show. Great Company. Great audiences. Great result. Well done everyone.

Fellowship of Prayer:

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



10TH BRIGHTON(HOVE) BOYS' BRIGADE **COMPANY**

Thank you to all of you who supported our ninth Old Time Music Hall. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. We were honoured to have the support of the Boys' Brigade President, Rev.Lord Leslie Griffith, who travelled down from London on Saturday night, especially for the show. Despite being nearly stranded at Three Bridges due to railway works, he made it just in time, thanks to Jukes' taxi service. Well, the show couldn't start without our musical director!

We are also delighted by your generosity and the knowledge that we can give £1000 to the work of The Alzheimers Society.

We will be resuming our normal programme and invite you all to come along to the **Fellowship Room on 26th February at 7.00 pm** and join us in our full Company Service.





DICK DENCH.

(Frederick Victor Dench)

8-11-1919 – 3-12-2017

“ which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil” Hebrews Ch 6 v. 19

The Boys' Brigade motto “Sure and Stedfast” might have been written with Dick Dench in mind. It embodies two of the principles by which Dick led his life.

By some of today's standards Dick's life might seem rather unexciting and confined. He was born in Hove, lived and worked most of his life in Hove, apart from his years of service in the RAF. Indeed, one of his future son-in-laws was regarded with some suspicion for a time because he lived in Worthing!

But Dick was a man who knew exactly where he belonged, what he belonged to and what he believed. He was anchored. “The words of the BB Hymn “Will your Anchor hold,” would have been answered with a firm and confident “Yes” by Dick.

Dick had a strict almost Victorian upbringing and attended the Salvation Army Sunday School. Then, aged 12, in 1931 he joined the Boys' Brigade and began one of the great loves of his life. He moved through the ranks and became an officer in 1938. His BB career was interrupted by World War II, with Dick leaving both the AA for whom he worked and the BB to enlist in the RAF on 7th September 1939.

It was whilst serving in the RAF he saw, met and married Jeanne. Theirs was a truly whirlwind romance. He saw her walking across the base on 1st September; they became engaged 4th October and married 31st March. Apparently, as soon as he saw her he said to his mate, “ I'm going to marry her. I'm going to tame her.” The first statement came true the second is highly debatable. A quiet “Now, Dick,” from Jeanne was remarkably effective. Theirs was a good enduring marriage of two like-minded people with the same firm faith who supported and trusted each other implicitly. When Jeanne died part of Dick went with her and he has been longing to be re-united with her.

When Dick was demobbed in 1946, he and Jeanne set up home in Connaught Terrace, with Dick's parents, and Dick rejoined the AA and

the BB., becoming Drill Officer in 1951 and later on Company Secretary and Company Treasurer. He and Jeanne also ran a Sunday Evening Youth Club upstairs in Connaught Terrace. The one proviso was that you had to attend evening service beforehand. No excuses accepted and no exceptions made.

A strict disciplinarian but firm and fair Dick earned the respect of all the Boys he encountered and undoubtedly made an impact for good in their lives, as Peter Gear will willingly attest. The Boys knew his standards, his expectations and the consequences. In his time with the Company Dick sought always to live up to the aim of the Boys' Brigade :” The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience , Reverence, Discipline, Self-respect and all that tends towards true Christian manliness.”

Apart from all his work with the Tenth Boys' Brigade Company, Dick was also a stalwart of Cliftonville Congregational Church serving as a Deacon and then when it became Central United Reformed Church, serving for a few years as an Elder. He also served on the Building and Finance Committees and, when he retired from work, he was in charge of the halls and the go-to for keys, queries and help.

Dick had a life bound by three Fs – Family, Faith and Friendship. Jeanne, Ann and Pam were the heart of his life and, although not naturally demonstrative, they knew they were loved – unconditionally. His Faith was central to everything he did. Dick would not push it on anyone but showed by example and by the way he addressed the Boys in BB Bible Class when his faith shone.

Basically a shy man, Dick was slow to make friends but once anyone gained his respect and friendship it was solid, loyal and for life. The fact that he still had friendships of 70 years from his workplace speaks for itself.

Dick's life and death, faith and belief are summed up in the words of two hymns, which will be sung at The Service of Thanksgiving for his life on February 10th

*Will your eyes behold through the morning light,
The city of gold our harbour bright.
We shall anchor safe by the heavenly shore
When life's storms are past forevermore.”*

AND

*For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast.
Justice will be satisfied. He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast,
'Til our faith is turned to sight.
He will hold me fast.*



Dear Editor

There are a few readers of our magazine who would not have been able to enjoy the latest Old Time Music Hall performed by our Boys' Brigade but they may be pleased to hear that music and laughter is still alive and well at Central! Congratulations to all who took part in producing and performing yet another spectacular event.

The opening 'mercurial' video made it clear that 'nothing was going to stop them' and they were 'having a good time'! A brilliant start – now we know where James Corden got the idea! The wide variety of music and comedy which followed was classic Old Time Music Hall. The boys were of course the stars but the production team deserve huge credit for providing the inspiration, resources and encouragement to make it all possible. Those who attended one (or more) of the three performances may have their own favourite item but will surely also agree that the show was excellent from start to finish. The adage "if it's not broke don't try to fix it" was good reason to include some familiar favourites. The addition of new musical talent, comedy sketches and a 'Bible Study' which demonstrated that there is humour everywhere (and drew the inevitable groans from the audience) provided the perfect mix and left us pondering possibility that 'the bright side of life' could be simply '*black and white*'!

It's a long way to 2020, (when we can do this again), but *my hearts already there!* I now need to explain some of the jokes to my 'trouble 'n strife' – over a cup of 'rosie' - while I can still remember them!

CHURCH CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

SUN 4	Family Service Rev. Kenneth Lynch Evening Worship – THE JUNCTION	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Tue 6	Tuesday Fellowship – Alan Saunders	2.30 pm
Sat 10	Thanksgiving Service to celebrate the Life of Dick Dench	 2.00 pm
SUN 11	Family Service Rev Sue Chapman Church Meeting Evening Worship Rev. Lynda Hulcoop	10.30 am 12 noon 6.30 pm
Tue 13	Soup, Sandwiches & Prayer at The Manse	12 noon
Wed 14	Ash Wednesday - BEGINNING OF LENT	
Fri 16	Book Club Film Night & Book Launch Church Lounge (See separate notice)	7.00 pm
SUN 18	Family Service Rev. Peter Elliott Evening Worship Rev Sue Chapman	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Mon 19	Joint Pastorate Elders' Meeting at Portslade URC	7.30 pm
Tue 20	Tuesday Fellowship – Willow Harmony	2.30 pm
Wed 21	Men's Fellowship – Film Night	7.45 pm
SUN 25	Family Service – Holy Communion Rev. Sue Chapman Evening Worship – Holy Communion Rev Peter Elliott	10.30 am 6.30 pm

Mon 26	BB Full Company Service in Fellowship Room ALL WELCOME Book Club – Lenten Thoughts led by Peter Elliott (Pam Moody)	7.00 pm 8.00 pm
Tue 27	Soup, Sandwiches & Prayer at The Manse	12 noon

MARCH

Fri 2	WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Service written by the Christian Women of Suriname) Sacred Heart Church, Norton Road	10.30 am
Sat 3	CAKE STALL COFFEE MORNING	10.00 am
SUN 4	Family Service Rev. Jenny Morgan Evening Worship – THE JUNCTION	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Tue 6	Tuesday Fellowship – Bryan Moody	2.30 pm
SUN 11	MOTHERING SUNDAY Family Service Rev Sue Chapman Evening Worship Rev. Lynda Hulcoop	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Mon 12	Elders' Meeting at Manse	7.30 pm
Tue 13	Soup, Sandwiches & Prayer at The Manse	12 noon
SUN 18	Family Service Rev Peter Elliott Evening Worship Rev Sue Chapman	10.30 am 6.30 pm
Tue 20	Tuesday Fellowship – Shirley Parker	2.30 pm

SUN 25	PALM SUNDAY Family Service Stella Goddard CHURCH AGM Evening Worship – Holy Communion Rev. Peter Elliott	10.30 am 12 noon 6.30 pm
Mon 26	BB Full Company Service in Fellowship Room ALL WELCOME Book Club – Eight Months in Gazzah Street Venue: TBA	7.00 pm 8.00 pm
Tue 27	Soup, Sandwiches & Prayer at The Manse	12 noon
Thu 29	MAUNDY THURSDAY Service with Holy Communion Rev. Sue Chapman	7.30 pm
Fri 30	GOOD FRIDAY Service Rev Sue Chapman Walk of Witness	10.00 am

APRIL

SUN 1	EASTER SUNDAY Sea Front Service (Bottom of Grand Avenue) Easter Breakfast – Fellowship Room Easter Praise Service No Evening Service at Central	8.00 am 9.00 am 10.30 am
Tue 3	Tuesday Fellowship – Councillor Robert Nemeth	2.30 pm
SUN 8	Family Service Rev Nicola Furley-Smith (Moderator) Evening Worship – THE JUNCTION	10.30 am 6.30 pm

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 **APRIL + MAY** edition of the magazine should be handed in no later than **SUNDAY 18th MARCH.**

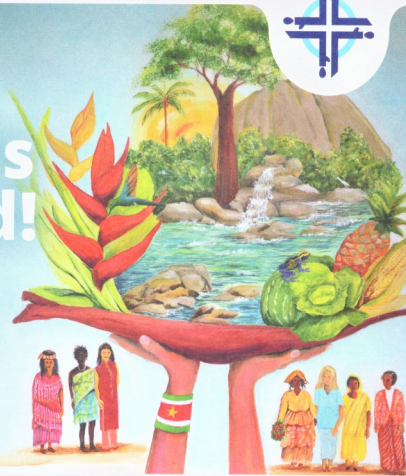
Please inform **Mr. Bill Maclean** by Wednesday of the preceding week of any calendar changes so that the calendar on the Order of Service may be altered.

Women's World Day of Prayer



All God's Creation is Very Good!

**PRAYING FOR SURINAME
A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE**



Friday 2nd March 2018

**SACRED HEART
CHURCH
Norton Road
Hove
10.30 a.m.**

Flower Rota for February

11th Ann Austen & Pam Stringer

25th Vanda Jones

Flower Rota for March

4th Sheila & Jim Lyall

25th Ann Austen & Pam Stringer

CHRISTMAS AT CENTRAL and ONWARDS.

Rather than commenting on how time flies, I will merely say how strange it is to be looking back at Christmas, slipping through New Year and now, before the next magazine comes out we will have gone through Lent and be celebrating EASTER!

Is it the traditions of Christmas, the lights, the flowers, the story that encourages everyone to work that bit harder to make an extra special contribution to our celebrations and worship. It certainly seems that way.

The Christmas Fair was a social and financial success. The Men's Fellowship's generosity, allied with the talents of the flower arrangers, ensured the church was beautifully decorated in time for the carols by Carols by Candlelight Service. The children's telling of the Nativity was original and yet held true to the beloved story.

We would like to thank all those who gave time effort and support to all of these inherent parts of the whole.

However, although we may not have choirs of angels, we do have some very talented musicians in Central, who contributed their time and talents to lifting our spirits and helping us rejoice in the Saviour's birth.

Firstly Jinny Smith, who arranged the music, led and practised the special Christmas Choir, and ensured The Carols by Candlelight Service was a true Celebration.

Jinny & Graham along with Carl Jukes and Alan Ireland had given us a most enjoyable, uplifting and fun Christmas Concert on 10th December. There was music to suit everyone's taste. Alan Ireland's mastery of the organ is almost legendary in central. He did not disappoint with his choice of pieces by Bach and Pachelbel in which the listeners could hear a carillon of bells and more as the music soared and dipped only to soar again. The gentleness and softness of Christmas Cradle Song by Alfred Hollins was a direct contrast to Widor's Toccata in F , which would definitely have woken any baby!

In contrast to this, Graham and Jinny Smith on violin and piano played Jazz arrangements of a familiar carol, In the Bleak midwinter, and some Christmas songs which allowed Graham's whimsical and puckish humour to shine through.

Carl Jukes rounded off the evening with a Christmas Sing Along to carols and songs. We would like to thank him for thinking of the concert and

then arranging it with Alan, Graham and Jinny.

Our thanks must also go to Keren Hancox, who a week before had done a marathon bake for the Christmas Fair and who laid on a buffet supper for the concert just one week later on top of all her other duties.

Thank you everyone.



Easter Breakfast

If you are planning to come to the Easter Breakfast on **Easter Sunday 1st April 9.00 am** in the **Fellowship Room**, please sign the notice on the Sign Up Notice Board so that cooks have some idea how many to cater for.

Thank you.



CAKE STALL

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 3rd March

10.00 am

CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB

The years of the Great Plague 1665 onwards were ones of fear, pain and death but out of them has also emerged tales of compassion and courage. The Year of Wonders by Geradine Brookes is a fictional story based on fact: the story of the self-sacrificing courage of the villagers of Eyam in Derbyshire. The villagers, when the first deaths from bubonic plague occurred, realised that if they fled, they would carry the disease to other parts of the country, so they deliberately isolated themselves and kept the plague confined to their own community, whilst dying themselves.

It makes for rather grim reading at times but it also gives intriguing insight into the lives of 17th century country dwellers and also into the goodness and evil which lies within mankind.

The author, had visited the original village and also done her research into the actual effects of the plague and its origins. Some of her characters are actually named after those who died and others closely resemble others but have had their names slightly altered to keep with the behaviour in the book.

Life in the country 17th century England for the working man and his family was grim. Forget the pastoral idylls depicted in poetry and literature and even in paintings. Life was harsh and work was hard and poorly paid. Houses were damp, frequently cold, dark and windowless. The men earned a pittance from mining or small holding or working at industries allied to farming. The women worked both in their cottages bringing up families, enduring multiple pregnancies, and in the fields, alongside their menfolk or as servants in the “Big House.” Relief from all this, came in two forms: the pub or the church.

The plague came to Eyam in a bale of cloth, purchased from London. When it arrived it was damp and had to be dried out and this is how the plague-carrying fleas flourished.

Once the first deaths occurred, the villagers had to make their fateful decisions. Encouraged by the charismatic Rev Montpellion and their faith the villagers and outlying farmers make the decision to isolate themselves, so that the plague may go no further. The only family not to do so is that of the squire, Col. Bradford who hastily left, abandoning everyone including servants who had nowhere else to go.

The subsequent events are told through the words and eyes of Anna Frith, the central character. We learn from her the way different people

react; we hear of the rising death toll and how with every death more and more work is put on those were still alive. Instead of going to church on Sunday, the diminishing congregation meets in the open air in an attempt to avoid further infection. There are heroes and heroines. Anna, Eleanor the rector's wife, the rector work tirelessly. On the other hand there are others who seek to profit from the deaths by making people pay in advance to have their graves dug, lest there be none left to give them a decent burial. In one case the victim is actually buried alive and his clothes stolen.

Fear makes people do desperate things and it is usually to look for a scapegoat. In this case witches. Blame the old woman who lives alone or the one who makes herbal medicines. They are "different" they don't conform, so it is their fault. As always, the "lynch" mob is led by the most ignorant, most brutal and most animalistic.

"The Year of Wonders" is a fascinating read. The good are not without their flaws or harshness. We could not stomach the judgmental attitude of Rev. Montpellion. We also found the ending rushed, disappointing and a bit unbelievable. But then we do not live in 17th century.

Our next meeting is on 26th February, at Pam Moody's home, at 8.00 p.m. when Peter Elliott will be leading us on some Lenten Thoughts.

Then on 26th March we will meet to discuss "8 Months in Gazzah Street" by Hilary Mantell. The venue for that will be given, once arranged, in the Order of Service.

AND NOW (Roll of Drums!!!!!!!!!!!!!!)

As promised:

Friday, 16th February, 7.00 pm. in the CHURCH LOUNGE

A special invitation to a **Film Night** featuring "Mrs Harris goes to Paris" a golden oldie and our tribute to Paul Gallico whose books we enjoyed during last year.

AND the launch of our **BOOK CLUB RECIPE BOOK**.

*On sale from that night. **PLUS free tastings** of some of the recipes.*

EVERYONE WELCOME

YOUR LETTERS

Thank you for the cards and flowers and also your prayers. They have been a great comfort to me while coping with my sadness.

Ann Beach.

* * * *

Thank you so much for the cards, flowers and prayers.

Thinking about you all with love.

Betty

* * * *

Ann & Pam would like to express their gratitude and appreciation for all the care and support they have received in so many ways since the death of their father in December. Your cards, prayers, letters and phone calls have meant so much at this difficult time.

* * * *

From FRESH START

Please pass on our thanks to all the congregation of Central URC Church. We donated all the amazing gifts that were delivered to Fresh Start for our Christmas Cheer project. We have had an amazing response from many recipients who were totally overwhelmed and greatly appreciative of all they received.

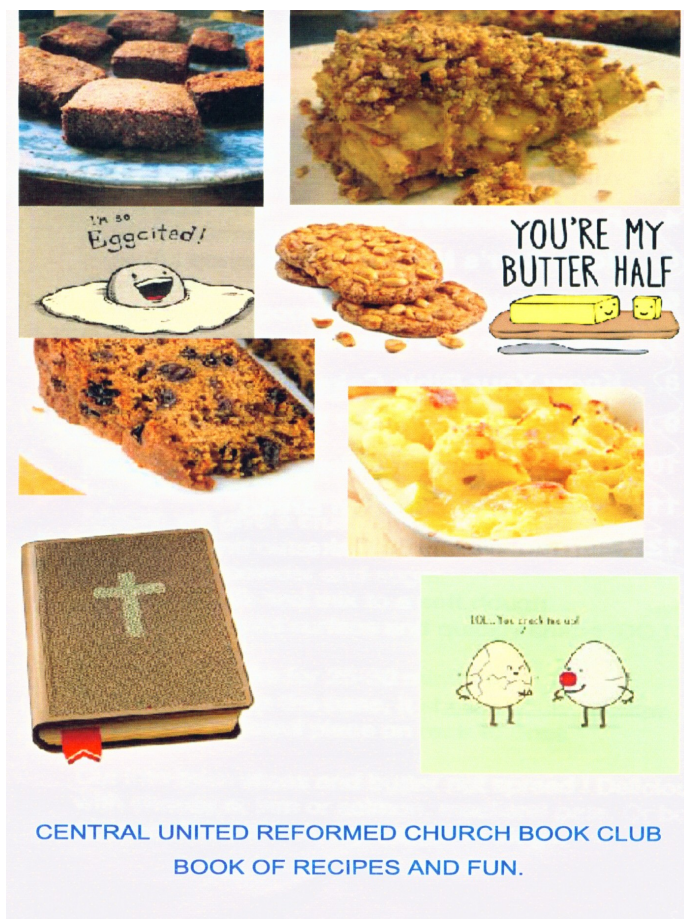
This year we were able to distribute

- 85 boxes of food and gifts
- to 67 households
- which directly impacted 230 people.

Thank you for making this possible.

Julie Warner

Project Manager.



CENTRAL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH BOOK CLUB
BOOK OF RECIPES AND FUN.

ON SALE
FROM 16TH FEBRUARY
£1.00 per copy
In aid of lift fund.

Join us for a taster at our film night 7.00 p m
In the church lounge

CENTRAL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HOVE

Corner of Ventnor Villas and Blatchington Road, Hove

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.