

# *The* CHRONICLE ARCHIVES

*Spring, Summer, Autumn & Winter 2008*

*Volume 65*

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Goring United Reformed Church  
Goring by Sea, Worthing, West Sussex.

# The CHRONICLE

*Spring 2008*



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*The magazine of Goring United Reformed Church, Worthing, West Sussex*

## GORING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

— We share a minister with St Andrew's, Rustington —

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## Worship in the Church Sanctuary

### Sundays

8.00am Prayer & Praise - with Holy Communion on first Sunday in month.

10.30am Morning Worship - with Holy Communion on first Sunday in month.

- Family service monthly as announced

- Junior Church with Crèche

6.00pm Evening Worship - with Holy Communion on third Sunday in month

### Mid-week

10.30am Bible Study on first Thursday in month

# The CHRONICLE

Vol. 65 - No. 614

Spring 2008

## Front and rear covers :

A promise of what's to come.

Beautiful daffodils taken in the Church garden on 12 March last year

## Articles for The CHRONICLE

Closing date for the next CHRONICLE magazine is the 15 May

Details can be found on page 16.

[www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle](http://www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle)



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## What is Easter?

Easter Paschal, or Resurrection Day is the oldest and the most important Christian Festival, the celebration of the death and coming to life again of Jesus Christ. For Christians, the dawn of Easter Sunday with its message of new life is the high point of the Christian year.



*by Rev Andrew Sellwood*

Before I became a Christian I used to observe the two festivals of Christmas and Easter; to be honest it was because each consisted of bank holidays. Christmas was great; presents, partying, time off work everyone somehow became friendlier. But Easter, what a contrast it felt so gloomy, people making a big issue about giving up things for lent, it seemed to me all based around the fact that an innocent man was executed a long time ago in a far away country, how bizarre, besides I didn't like chocolate that much. Looking back it becomes obvious I was missing the point and I wonder just how many more people still miss the point of Easter?

Christians hold to a fundamental doctrine and all would feel able to say these words; **Jesus ... suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

Nowhere does it say Jesus didn't actually die he just fainted, or it wasn't Jesus on the cross but a kind of holy hologram, or the grave was empty because the disciples stole the body, or even more recently suggested Jesus went on to marry Mary Magdalene and had many children. The creed distils the scriptural account and gives us the key points.

So these then are the facts of Easter; Jesus really suffered at the hands of those he came to save, he was crucified and we say 'he died our death'; he was buried in a borrowed tomb, most people even those from some other faiths go along with those statements as being historically factual, no real problem there.

But here's the amazing bit; Jesus didn't stay dead; on the third day he rose from the grave! That's where some people may struggle. That's the transition between the natural and the supernatural i.e. the things we are familiar with and understand in this case suffering, death, and burial contrasted with the concept of resurrection. But it needs that leap of faith to understand that Jesus rose from the grave. Jesus defeated the things that bind us to the world; sin, death, darkness and despair,

and when you realise and accept the enormity of that transition you can never be the same again. God sent his son into the world to restore the once broken relationship with humanity in order to show his endless love mercy and grace. We misunderstood the gesture and nailed him to the cross. Despite our foolishness God continued the restoration process and raised his son from death, defeating the human nature and exulting it to the eternal nature.

So there we have an incident in history that changed the future of humanity, we call it Easter. The result of Easter turns us from Good Friday people to Resurrection people.

*Yours in His service Andrew*

#### **End notes.**

**Here is a response to a question people have often asked me, I hope it is helpful. Why does the date of Easter move?**

Easter is called a moveable feast because the date of Easter changes every year. Easter Sunday can fall on any date from March 22 to April 25. The reason for this variation in the date of Easter is based on the lunar calendar ([moon](#)) rather than our more well known solar one. Easter always falls on the first Sunday following the full Moon (the Paschal Full Moon) either on or after the Spring Equinox (March 20 or 21). If the Full Moon falls on a Sunday then Easter is the next Sunday. *Andrew*

# Pastoral Care at Goring URC

## **“Love one another as I have loved you” St John Chapter 15 verse 12**

There are many ways in which we can show our love for one another. Here at Goring URC we have resources which can help:-

### **We can pray.**

#### **The Prayer Book**

How do I know who needs my prayers?

There are many ways of course - but in particular, are you aware of the **prayer book** in the little chapel, situated just to the left of the pulpit? Here is a space to be quiet and record prayers of thanksgiving and prayers of intercession. You are welcome to share joys and sorrows in prayer through the means of this little book.

### **We can be in touch with the minister or our pastoral elder.**

Are you concerned about some-one, or some-thing?

The Minister or a pastoral elder will hear you in confidence, and will pray with you and/or for you. You will find the names of the pastoral elders in the church handbook. If you do not have a Handbook please speak to Graham Redman, or add your name to the sheet on the table at the back of the church..

### **We can take part in the ministry of flowers.**

Are you able to arrange **flowers** for Sunday worship?

Would you like to pay for the flowers some times, either as a gift, or as a memorial or thanksgiving? Carol Webber would be pleased to hear from you. Do you have a car, and would you be able to use it to distribute flowers occasionally, or more frequently? Please let me know.

### **We can visit those who are stuck indoors.**

Perhaps you are available to visit people who are unable to get out, to have a little chat, do a little shopping, offer a lift in your car. Please let me know

### **The Book of Remembrance**

Have you seen The Book of Remembrance in the Little Chapel. If you would like the name of a loved one recorded here, please let me have the details - name and date of death is sufficient.

If you would like to help through pastoral care, and have a gift to offer please speak with me as soon as possible. *Hilary Redman, Pastoral Secretary.*

## A CHURCH WEEKEND AWAY

After discussion in our Elder's meeting and Church Meeting, we thought that a "Weekend Away" for as many members and friends as could attend, would be of great benefit for everyone, if a good number of our congregation could attend. The last time we arranged such a weekend was nearly 20 years ago, and it was a wonderful experience for everyone.

Weekend means from Friday supper until Sunday tea, and it has been suggested that we could hold this at Pilgrim Hall, near Uckfield, in East Sussex. ([www.pilgrimhall.com](http://www.pilgrimhall.com)) This is a Christian centre able to provide a residential venue in beautiful surroundings and very comfortable accommodation for up to 120 people. Transport would be in our own cars, and lifts provided for all those who required them.

Our Minister, Andrew, would be our resident "Leader" for the weekend, and he has a number of colleagues in mind to talk to us about the New Testament and other topics. There would be the opportunity for praying and worshipping together, enjoying one another's company, and some free time (Table Tennis in the Games Room perhaps?)

A date has yet to be decided but it would be in February or March 2009 – some time ahead as Pilgrim Hall must be booked well in advance.

We would hope to book for about 50, and a provisional booking must be made soon. We hope some friends from our sister church in Rustington might join us.

The cost for the weekend would be

£124 for each adult, with a sliding scale for children and young people according to age. HOWEVER the Elders will be discussing the possibility of subsidising this cost. (This charge is the 2008 price – there could be an increase of up to 5% in 2009)

The accommodation in Pilgrim Hall is a mixture of rooms accommodating from 1 to 8 people, some en-suite, some not. Cots provided! I can speak from experience when I say that the place is beautiful and the meals excellent and the rooms comfortable.

We shall talk about this both in Church and at Church Meeting, and will have a list at the back of the church for everyone to indicate their interest. We really do need members and friends to commit themselves to what will be a great forward looking event in the life of our Church Fellowship. It's far enough ahead for everyone to have an empty diary!

The Children will be cared for separately; with opportunities for stories, games and craft, etc; joining with us all for meals and at other times.

*Wilfred Rhodes.*





Reflections at Goring

## Ups and Downs

Life is about overcoming! You conquer one mountain, and, before you know it, you are faced with the next ! That seems to have applied to me over the past few years. I have been on a roller-coaster, but with God's love and grace I have overcome the adversities. Help for me has also come from the love of my family, friends and neighbours and I would like to say a thank you for all members of our Church, who have sent cards, letters, flowers and made telephone calls and above all have upheld me in their prayers. By the time you read this I hope to be back in my place among the congregation.

Blessings and thanks to all. *Joan Burrage*



# Quiz Evening

"Who burnt his mouth eating cold porridge?" "Is a pregnant goldfish known as a twit?" (it is) These were just two of the problems causing great deliberation and friendly rivalry at our recent quiz evening.

The sixty-seven participants proved knowledgeable about nursery rhymes and children's TV, but less confident about history, geography and science. It was good to see a table of young people - but what nursery rhymes did their Mums teach them? For light relief, the eight categories were interspersed with "fun rounds" on confectionery, flowers and famous people. We were fortified by fish and chips and drinks ad-lib.



Competition mounted until the final "wipe out" round when strategy, tactics, courage or plain fool-hardiness came into play. Our thanks go to Sue and Val for a fun and friendly evening.

*Shirley Wilde*

# An Easter Quiz - The Death and Resurrection of Christ

**1: At Christ's crucifixion what did the soldiers place on his head?**

Crown of Nettles : Crown of Thorns : Crown of Jewels : Crown of Thistles

**2: For how many pieces of silver did Judas betray Christ?**

10 : 20 : 30 : 40

**3: Christ was led away to which high priest first?**

Annas : Vitellius : Caiaphas : Josephus

**4: When Jesus died, for how long was there darkness over the land?**

3 days : 3 minutes : 3 hours : 3 weeks

**5: What was the colour of the robe placed on Jesus?**

Blue : Red : White : Purple

**6: After Pilate found no guilt in Christ, for what reason did the Jews say that Jesus should die?**

He claimed to be of heaven : He said he would destroy the temple of God

He claimed to be their King : He had made himself the Son of God

**7: With what was Jesus' side pierced?**

Sword : Knife : Spear : Axe

**8: Which disciple wanted to see the imprint of the nails before he would believe?**

Andrew : Thomas : James : Bartholomew

**9: Jesus appeared to his disciples after the resurrection beside which sea?**

Red Sea : Sea of Joppa : Sea of Tiberias : Dead Sea

**10: Who did Pilate send Jesus to after he had interrogated him?**

Herod : Annas : Caiaphas : Caesar

**11: Who carried the cross for Christ?**

Simon of Cyrene : Simon Peter : Simon the Zealot : Simeon

**12: Who rolled away the tomb stone?**

Jesus : God : An Angel : A Roman Centurion

*Answers on page 10*

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PILOT'S NEWS

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Ahoy there!

What have Pilots been up to so far this year?

We are being *PEACE BUILDERS*

If you use the East Hall you will see our display growing week by week as we learn about individual peace. Next we will learn about community peace and then world peace and how we in our own way can make a contribution.

However our main project is of course *SAFARI TO LONGLEAT*

We are having two fund raising events, the first on *SATURDAY 5<sup>th</sup> APRIL* is a *COFFEE MORNING* with a *CAKE* and *CARD SALE* and *CAR WASH*

For the second we are joining with St Andrews Pilots, later in the month for a *CAR BOOT SALE*

We are looking for donations of saleable items, but not clothes or books to help us in our fund raising efforts. Please support the Pilots as we want to make this a great day out for the children. It is quite an experience to be amongst all those Pilots when you belong to a small company!

*Valerie Cooper, Captain*

# Fellowship Meetings

As I write this we are well into the New Year but I am remembering some of the highlights of the last few months.

Towards the end of November we had a visit from Jennifer Hake who spoke to us about her job with a Waste Management Company - in other words "Recycling Rubbish". It really was very interesting, especially in view of the way we are encouraged to recycle whatever we can. The talk soon became a discussion as we all added our own take on the subject. I am sure the most fashionable words in our vocabulary at present must be - "Carbon Footprints"

After Jennifer's visit came the run up to Christmas with a programme of songs from the TWG Choir - always very enjoyable. Then of course our own Christmas Celebration afternoon on 18th December, carols, readings, sketches and lovely warm mince pies!

During these winter months our meetings are being held in the

Cornwall Room - in order to conserve some of the heat needed to heat the main hall, and to do 'our bit' regarding the Global Warming. It gets somewhat crowded to say the least. Good job we are all such good friends!

One such meeting on 5th February was when two lovely young ladies, Sharon and Janet came from Community Health to talk to us about how NOT to fall in the home. They had some alarming statistics as to the number of injuries sustained, which can, with forethought be so easily avoided. Sharon gave us what she called a Silly Quiz which caused a great deal of fun and laughter. It was a happy afternoon !

Do join us on Tuesday. You would be very welcome.

*Doreen Norris*

## Answers to the Easter Quiz on page 8

6	He had made himself the Son of God	12	An Angel
5	Purple	11	Simon of Cyrene
4	3 hours	10	Herod
3	Annas	9	Sea of Tiberias
2	30	8	Thomas
1	Crown of Thorns	7	Spear

## TABLE TENNIS CLUB

As you all know the Table Tennis Club meets in the East Hall on Tuesday and Friday mornings throughout the year. We have been going now for almost 3 years and it has been well supported.

We have 18 members on our register ranging in age from 50'ish to 88 and about 12 of us turn up fairly regularly.

Last year we bought a new table at great expense, and woe and betide anyone who gets a mark on it. We also play with a variety of coloured balls - to match our attire of course!!!

We are very competitive and we always play to win and very often we

are reluctant to take our turn as we are in the middle of a conversation or making, or drinking, our coffee.

From time to time we welcome family members or friends who join in as well - otherwise they have to amuse themselves at home for we do not like to miss our weekly exercise.

If you belong to the church family you are very welcome to come and join us but unfortunately only on Fridays as we are full on Tuesday mornings.

We are at this moment trying to decide when and where to go for what we loosely call our annual meal, but we have been in the summer as well.

Decisions, decisions!!!

*Sheila Gooderham*

## The Ark



A group for adults with babies and toddlers

Do you know any families with children under school age ? If they live in this area, or if they are staying at your house on a Thursday morning in term time why not invite them to The Ark ? We meet in the church hall from 9.15 until 11.15, and we are always glad to welcome new adults and the children in their care.

There is always lots of chat, a cup of coffee or tea, biscuits, and plenty to do with toys and craft activities. We play instruments, hear stories and sing.

We would love to see you with your children : come and join us.

*Hilary Redman*

## Joe's Ark Blog part 2

### Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November

Much rejoicing from Hilary when the missing Spanish donkey was found in one of the toy boxes ...

### Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November

Today I played with the animals .... I also sat on the sporty red car waving to people, looking VERY pleased with myself. Good news on the biscuit front: I had two straight away (Mummy and I generally edge toward the serving hatch as it approaches 10am ...) then I scrounged another one from Beryl and Margaret and THEN I even managed to pick up at least two more that other people had left on the table ! Yay !! I was still munching when it was time to sing, but as I can't actually talk yet, that didn't matter. Jenny requested "Baa Baa Black Sheep" as usual ... I can actually make a "baa" sound, but I couldn't be bothered today – I think my mouth was tired out from all my munching. Surprisingly, Hilary didn't know that there was a tune for "Miss Polly Had a Dolly" ... and I had thought that she knew EVERYTHING about music !

### Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November

Nasty weather today, so I wore my wellies. It was very quiet at first, but got suspiciously busier around coffee time ! Well, I say "coffee", but it's really biscuit time. Margaret was quite surprised that I kept rushing up to hug her legs. She reminds me of my Granny ... and her trousers were nice and soft for wiping my chocolaty face ! Daddy popped in briefly to get Alison to sign an official form for him – her being a solicitor is very useful for us !



I'm not sure how Daddy got into the hall though, as Les spends his mornings on door duty ensuring that suspicious characters DON'T get in ....

### Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December

A horrible rainy day ... but it takes more than bad weather to keep me from my biscuits ! I just needed wellies and a rain cover .... And Mummy to push the buggy, of course. I gave Margaret lots of cuddles again, and was a BIG help to Beryl whilst she was playing the piano



– I did all the high notes without her needing to ask me ! I enjoyed singing “Row, Row, Row The Boat” – I now do the actions with Mummy, especially the dinosaur roar in the 3<sup>rd</sup> verse. Raaaahhhrrr !!!

### Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December

I didn't think we'd make it today as it was Charlie's school show, but as that only lasted 20 minutes (I wriggled throughout, so Mummy was quite relieved it was short !) we sped across the park to The Ark afterwards. There were biscuits laid out on the table, so naturally I headed straight there. And I was still there 45 minutes later when Hilary was trying to tidy away the tables so that we could watch the Little Fishes Xmas show ! Well, a boy's gotta eat .... When it was time to go home, Les handed out balloons to everyone, and Mummy chose a pink one for us. How embarrassing ....

### Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January

Today's theme was red .... But Mummy had completely forgotten until we turned up and saw that everyone else was in red ! Luckily, I happened to be wearing red anyway, but Mummy was vexed, as red is one of the few colours she wears, in the 2% of the time when she isn't wearing one of her 27 near identical long-sleeved black tops.

Had there been a prize for best dressed 'Arkette', I think Jenny would have won – she had a lovely red and gold full-length princess dress. Not exactly practical for going down the chute, but definitely very stylish. She and I muscled our way to the front of the queue when the shutters opened for coffee and biscuits ... I don't suppose anyone would have noticed me on my own as I'm a bit wee (having said that, I can squeal VERY loudly !), but Jenny was able to ensure that the biscuits were lowered to my level.

This was actually my last Ark for a while, as I am doing sign language classes this term. Frustratingly, the theme here is “orange” next week, and I have lots of orange tops. (hand-me-downs from my orange haired big brother !) Even more frustratingly, we aren't given biscuits at my sign language class !

Oh – and can I just say a very big SORRY to Margaret for wiping my nose on her black trousers as I gave her a cuddle this morning. And hello to Joan who hasn't had a mention anywhere else in my blog because she doesn't dispense biscuits; she helps on the craft table and Mummy thinks I'm too wee for that sort of thing at the moment !

*Susie Thomas pp Joe*



## Latest news from Senegal by Ruth Priestly

*Ephesians 2 v 4-5 (Go look it up!)*

Good day to you all! Again, it has been a while since I last wrote and so a number of things have happened that I need to mention. I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year. We had a relatively restful one here. On New Year's Eve we had a games evening arranged by yours truly. After New Year, I went into Dakar and with the help of a friend and lots of prayer over our vehicle, we managed to pick up my parents and get them safely back to BCS [Bourofaye Christian School]. It was great to have them

here. It's good to know that they know where I am coming from and what it is like here. They visited the Gambia as well and had a great time, for the most part, I believe.

Unfortunately, towards the end of their stay I got the sickness bug that had been terrorizing the school since the beginning of January. Mum had to take my class for some lessons and then Dad did my Bible study and mum played the piano for me on the Sunday.



Before term started in January, we had field conference for all WEC [Worldwide Evangelism for Christ] missionaries in Senegal. Last year I was in co-charge of the children's work and it was a little stressful and tiring. This year my Mum and Dad did the children's work, so I was free to go to more meetings. Young-Choon and Elaine Lee from the WEC International Office came and spoke about faith, fellowship, sacrifice and holiness – the four pillars of WEC. He was a very good speaker. God spoke to me over the week,

because I have been worrying over what to do after this year – whether to come back home, stay here another year, or prepare to do long-term work. Mum had a picture for me about being safe and that I didn't have to fear my future, then someone said in a meeting that God says, "Stop asking me what to do and just seek me." Therefore, this is my main focus at the moment. I have had many thoughts about all my different options for next year, but have not made any decisions and still feel rather confused. I am trying to seek God more, but would appreciate your prayers for discipline and motivation. I am part of a rather intensive Bible study at the moment, which has already been good for me, so Wahey!!

My class has grown by three pupils since Christmas and now I have another boy, Alan, who arrived three days ago with his family. His parents will work here. They come from Brazil, so now I have 4 out of 10 children who are Brazilian! Jackie and Janet (sisters) have settled in well, as has Sarah, whose English is not good, but is making progress.

Anyway, this short term is racing along towards SIPS (a sporting event between schools in Senegal) and

Easter. After school most of the children are involved in various sports training. Just after we have attended SIPS in Dakar there is a world Islamic conference going on there.



BCS - Bourofaye Christian Boarding School

At our WEC conference it was felt that this needs a lot of prayer as it could have ramifications for the whole world, especially Muslim countries. Last time they had it in Senegal, the Christians prayed and the conference had to finish early because they couldn't agree with each other.

Thanks once again for your support. I think of you all often, so continue to let me know your prayer needs and life details!! Loads of Love and God's Blessings.

*Ruth xxxxxxxxxxxx*

Praise & Prayer Points: next page



*Ruth is a mission field worker in Africa, supported in prayer by our Junior Church. She is teaching years 1 and 2 at BCS, a school for missionary children in Senegal, West Africa.*

[ Cont'd from page 15 - 'Senegal' ]

### **Praise Points**

Praise the Lord that the nasty sick bug seems to have left us!

My class is working together well and the new children have slotted right in.

My parents had a good visit with lots of safe travel.

The Bible studies at the moment are good and we continue to have fun and fellowship together.

Conference was a blessed time to meet missionaries from around Senegal, get to know them better, and also to hear from God.

### **Prayer Points**

Desire and motivation to seek God

more. SIPS – free from injury (Tracey – housemate – has now injured her left ankle, enjoyment for all and safety. The world Islamic conference.

- A., one of our African workers gave his life to Jesus during conference. It is very exciting. May this just be the start of what God is going to do in Kaniabour and around this area. Pray for A. in a Muslim dominated environment – for courage, strength and faith.
- Jaclyn moved out of Senegal and back to the US in December. Then in January Johanna moved in from the US. Pray for her in her new job and living with us crazy Brits and that she will feel at home quickly.

## Mission News from Goring

As I prepare to write this account of Mission activity at G.U.R.C. over the past few years I have wondered what the word Mission conjures up in your mind as you read. Is it an image of those like David Livingstone breaking virgin ground in Africa with the limited resources of his day dependent on the devoted service of Africans to carry his belongings on his journey, or perhaps you think of the wandering friars of the middle ages taking the Gospel around the countryside; or further back to St Augustine bringing the Gospel to Celtic Britain and finally back to Jesus and the disciples as they walked through Palestine, and the great commission of Matt 28.

One thing is certain, today's missionaries have the abiding comfort of Christ's words, "and surely

I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Today our missionaries are concerned not only with the Gospel, but in providing Christian support in social and medical areas, in projects to create sustainable agriculture, to finance small business projects, to enable Christian communities to become self supporting. Setting up programmes to combat HIV/ AIDS and drug addiction, and provide ophthalmic clinics

to treat cataracts and other eye conditions, and the ongoing work of Bible translation into vernacular languages, work which Ruth is engaged upon in the Congo.

Added to this is the work of M.A.F. engaged in providing air transport in many areas of the world, from Shetland to Mozambique, Papua New Guinea, and there is the technology involved in the world-wide publications and the radio TV broadcasts under the auspices of United Christian Broadcasting.

Here at G.U.R.C. is so tiny, against the canvas of the World Church.

We support Ruth at Wycliffe, giving annually towards her living costs. We have personal links with two churches in Ghana, supporting their work and needs from time to time. This personal contact means that we can ensure that our gifting goes directly to our friends and ensures that they receive maximum benefit.

In the last seven years we have distributed over £10,500 to various mission activities.

Over these past years we have changed our policy in arranging our giving, instead of sending small amounts to several organisations, we now concentrate our resources by giving large amounts to one or two mission fields. We have also remembered FEBA, Tearfund, Living Hope Ministries, during the last years as well as the continued gifting to The Leprosy Mission, The Bible Society and the annual Christian Aid week every May.

From time to time we have held special mornings to raise additional funds, from our Christian Sale event.

We sent a gift to Samaritans Purse for Water Aid.

In the last three years one of our members has organised "Shoebox" Christmas Appeals on behalf of Samaritans Purse to provide toys, clothing etc. to be given out at Christmas time to children and young people in deprived areas around the world; children who have never received a personal present ever before. May I make a personal appeal on behalf of Samaritans Purse that there is a greater involvement from the whole church to this very worthy cause.

Mission is not only world-wide but it is here in our own towns and cities, seeking to bring help and the Gospel to the Homeless, the Outcasts of our material society - therefore at Christmastime and at Harvest we provide practical help in our giving to The Worthing Churches Homeless Projects which provides a night shelter, a day drop in centre and more recently a refuge for those seeking to kick drug and alcohol dependency.

Remember us in your prayers and in your giving, every day 25,000 people die of hunger worldwide, one in four children world wide live in absolute poverty. Every day women in Africa walk 4 kilometres to draw water, often from contaminated sources, and in Portugal 2 million people live in poverty. *Alec Ralph*

## A Miracle – or What?

The answer is.... 'What'! The catering firm Fiona works for has a full time staff of 20 and handles 300 to 500 events each year, catering for numbers from 10 in a dinner party to a special breakfast/lunch/dinner for 5000!

It is Fiona's job, as catering organiser, to start many months earlier, having many meetings with many people in many places, making planning proposals incorporating estimates for the purchase of ingredients for the food to be served, the beverages, the disposables, the rental of transport, drivers, and hire of staff to set-up, display, serve and clean up. Service time over 8 hours is at time and a half. Gratuities are not included. Cancellation fees start at three weeks, 25%; two weeks, 50%; one week, 75%; at 72 hours or less, 100%. The reason for this is that other clients may have been turned away to hold the date for a particular event.

1,200 people were to be catered for at 5 o'clock on the evening of Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> January, when the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Screen Actors Guild awards show was held in the Los Angeles Shrine Exposition Centre, which was decked out in gold and ivory, with fluted columns, art deco arches and chandeliers, and all the elegant tableware of a formal dining room to evoke the feeling of the Golden Age of the Hollywood Movie Palace. The event's supervisor said that it

took a week to set up the dining room with carpet, tables, chairs, china, glassware, table-linen and flowers. The floral centrepieces were low glass containers lined with black velvet and filled with moss, yellow calla lilies, white orchids, white roses and succulents.

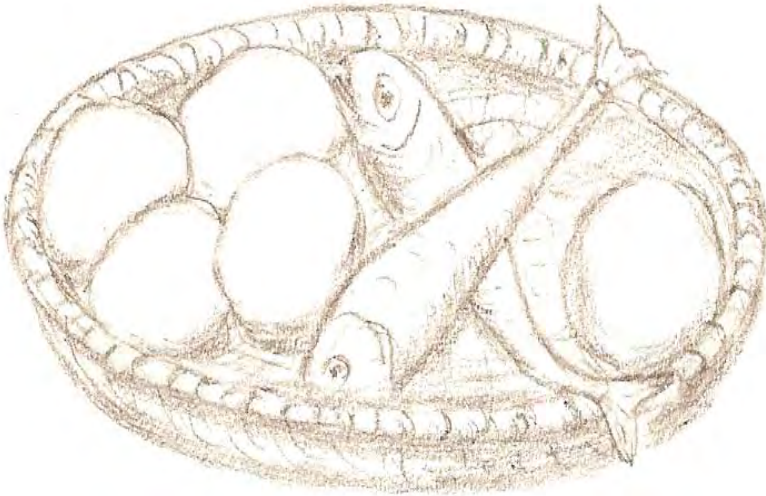
The head of the catering firm, with a kitchen staff of 15, started the preparations 3 days before the dinner, the food deliveries having started a week before.

Each single dinner plate was to hold 'Four little works of art in food' – mini selections of Mediterranean fare – Tuna Nicoise with devilled eggs, black olives, haricots verts, pesto and tomatoes; Chicken Bisteeya with figs, mizuna and pomegranates; poached lamb loin with basil mousse and lentil salad; grilled vegetable terrine with sherry and dry cured olive focaccia accompanied by freshly baked bread sticks. Alongside this came a choice of champagnes and fine wines – or water.

The various parts of each dish were made in the firm's kitchens, and taken by refrigerated trucks to the Shrine by 10 a.m. on the Sunday. They then had six hours to prepare the plates. They needed that amount of time to get 1,200 dinner plates ready and on the tables before the start of the show, working in a

makeshift kitchen set up in an adjacent building. The event manager was in overall control. Then there were 2 kitchen managers, 28 kitchen assistants, 5 captains, 53 waiters, 8 bartenders and 2 bar assistants. People worked in teams, each team having a set sequence in which to complete a particular dish.

Once the plates were on the table, the boss chef/ owner could go home, switch on TV and watch the stars enjoying his food. His staff would see to all the rest.



*Celebrity Chef's Choice for Five Thousand Guests. Luke 9, v v 12 - 17]*

[A further post-awards gala, in an adjacent tent hosted by People magazine and the Entertainment Industry Foundation, offered more drinks, desserts and coffee. That meant another catering firm, another set of chefs, assistants, waiters, bartenders, etc, etc, etc.]

What was the shopping list for 1,200 dinners? 1,200 quail eggs, 1,200 jumbo capers, 600 Roma tomatoes, 225 lbs lamb, 200 lbs tuna, 200 lbs chicken, 150 lbs potatoes, 100 lbs filo dough, 75 lbs courgettes, 75 lbs squash, 75 lbs red bell peppers, 75 lbs almonds, 50 lbs haricots verts, 50 lbs yellow wax beans, 30 lbs dried figs, 25 lbs carrots, 25 lbs celery, 25 lbs leeks, 24 lbs mizuna lettuce, 15 gallons beluga lentils, 10 lbs dried cured black olives, 10 lbs fresh basil, 8 gallons Kalamata olives, 6 gallons extra virgin olive oil, 5 lbs baker's yeast, 3 gallons Ruby Port, 2 gallons sherry vinegar.

*Mary Connolly*



## THE ROWLAND SINGERS

Once again the Rowland Singers are presenting their Easter Concert in this church on Wednesday 12th March at 7.30 pm

The programme is the Faure Requiem and the Vivaldi Gloria. the soloists are Helen Emery - Soprano, Gillian Jackson - Contralto and Nicholas Ryder - Bass.

The organist is Michael Maine and the conductor will be, as usual, Jacqueline Emery

The tickets are £6 (Child £2) and can be obtained from Margaret Butcher and Sheila & Roy Gooderham, or other members of the choir.

This is a very popular programme for Easter and we look forward to seeing you.

*Sheila Gooderham*

## Articles for The CHRONICLE

**You can submit articles to the editor for inclusion in the Chronicle by any of the following ways —**

- 1. E-Mail to [chronicle@gurc.org.uk](mailto:chronicle@gurc.org.uk)**
- 2. Via the website - [www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle](http://www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle)**
- 3. By post to Graham Redman  
5 Salvington Hill, Worthing, West Sussex. BN13 3AT**
- 4. — or by hand to me, Graham on a Sunday at Church.**

**Closing date for Summer Chronicle 15 May 2008**

**The Chronicle is on line at [www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle](http://www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle)**

### Weekday Activities

Goring by Sea Pilots Company. 5-17yr olds	Monday Afternoon/Evening
Tuesday Fellowship	Alternate Tuesday Afternoons
The Ark for Adults with Babies & Toddlers	Thursday Mornings. School Term times
Monthly Mid-week Holy Communion	1st Thursday in month 10.30am
Kestro (Stroke Club)	Friday Afternoons
Choir Practice	Friday Evenings
Little Fishes Play Group	Monday-Friday. School Term times
Bible Study Groups	Various times & days
Table Tennis	Tuesday & Friday Mornings

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*The Chronicle costs approximately 75p each to produce. Whilst no charge is made for the magazine, the Church would be very grateful for any donations given to help towards its cost of production. There is a box provided for such purpose at the back of the church, or contributions may be made by post to Mrs Grace Ralph ( address above ). Thank you.*

**The CHRONICLE**

[www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle](http://www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle)

[chronicle@gurc.org.uk](mailto:chronicle@gurc.org.uk)







## Goring United Reformed Church

Goring United Reformed Church is part of the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom. Since May 2005 a Joint Pastorate was formed with St Andrew's United Reformed Church in Rustington, with whom we share Ministry.

The United Reformed Church has over 1600 churches in England, Scotland and Wales with a total membership of about 76000. It was formed in 1972 when the Presbyterian Church of England and the Congregational Church of England and Wales united, and was then later joined by the Churches of Christ in Great Britain and Ireland in 1981 and then Congregational Union of Scotland in 2000.

Goring and St Andrew's are part of the Southern Synod of the United Reformed Church whose affairs are governed by the General Assembly.

It was early in the 1930s that Worthing Congregational Church in Shelley Road began planning to build a new church in the rapidly growing area to the west of Worthing. The present building was opened in 1961, when the congregation became too large to be accommodated in the church building that is now the hall, opened in 1948.

Goring URC is part of Churches Together For Worthing, and Christians Together in Goring, with whom we often join for worship. The other churches in Goring with whom we share the Christian faith are English Martyrs Roman Catholic Church, St Mary, St Laurence & St Richard Churches of England, the New Life Baptist Church and Bury Drive Methodist Church.

*We are here to worship God and proclaim the love of Jesus Christ to all*



Goring United Reformed Church, Worthing, West Sussex.

[www.gurc.org.uk](http://www.gurc.org.uk)

# The CHRONICLE

*Summer 2008*

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*The magazine of Goring United Reformed Church, Worthing, West Sussex*

## GORING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

— We share a minister with St Andrew's, Rustington —

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## Worship in the Church Sanctuary

### Sundays

8.00am Prayer & Praise - with Holy Communion on first Sunday in month.

10.30am Morning Worship - with Holy Communion on first Sunday in month.

- Family service monthly as announced

- Junior Church with Crèche

6.00pm Evening Worship - with Holy Communion on third Sunday in month

### Mid-week

10.30am Bible Study on first Thursday in month

# The CHRONICLE

Vol. 65 - No. 615      Summer 2008

## Articles for The CHRONICLE

Closing date for the next CHRONICLE magazine is the **1 August**.

Due to holiday arrangements, this is an earlier date than usual.

Details can be found on page 16.  
[www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle](http://www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle)



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## Vision 4 Life

**Here's some good news for the future folks!** As many of you already know by now the URC has come up with a new initiative to augment the Catch the Vision programme: it is **Vision 4 Life**. This, I believe is an excellent concept to bring us all back to the core values of our faith; sometimes the simplest of ideas prove to be the most effective.

Each year, over the next three years we will be exploring —

1. The Bible.
2. Prayer.
3. Sharing our story.

Many of us have perhaps become a bit rusty in our knowledge and practice in these key areas. It is an exercise that we can all be involved with, whatever level we are comfortable with (but its always good to challenge and extend our comfort zone).



Another exciting aspect of **Vision 4 Life** is that we will be united with churches across the denomination in this process. This is such an important initiative I urge all members and friends here to in some way be involved.

How does it work again? For example when we look at the Bible section in year one we consider things like; how important is the Bible to us, how often do we read it, what passages have been important to us, are there areas of scripture that trouble us or we simply do not

understand. Together as a church we can explore these areas and grow through the process. There will be resources to help and guide us, and various opportunities to come together in this process of sharing and growing. It is in no way a criticism of how we have perhaps drifted from the discipline; rather it is a chance to come back into the constantly fresh revelation and excitement that is our faith in Jesus Christ friend, Lord and Saviour.

Look out for **Vision 4 Life**.

*Yours in His service Andrew*

# The Ark

A group for adults with babies and toddlers



## Thursday April 24th

I'm back ! I went straight to the little red car and then to the slide. In my term away [at Sing & Sign class] I seem to have forgotten how to come down the slide – now I get to the top, look a bit confused, and climb down again. I'm sure that's not quite right ....

At ten o'clock it was biscuit time – hurrah ! Annabel's Mummy had brought some cake to celebrate Annabel's birthday – what a good idea ☺

After our usual songs, we sang "Happy Birthday" to Annabel, and also to Jenny. [Mummy always calls her "wee Jenny" as we have a grown-up friend called Jenny, but wee Jenny is actually almost the oldest person at the Ark, at a very impressive age 4 !]

## Joe's Ark Blog Part 3



**Thursday May 1<sup>st</sup>**

Elm Grove school was closed today (it's a polling station) so Charlie came to The Ark with us. We were very late ... I had decided to have a lie-in and Mummy eventually woke me up at twenty to ten !! LOTS of people there today ... at least 28 children. I was a bit worried that all the biscuits would be gone by the time I reached the front of the queue, but fortunately not ☺

Mummy was pleased to see her friend Debbie and Debbie's son Owen, from Sing & Sign classes first time round (i.e. with Charlie) Debbie now keeps hens, and Owen has his own chicken called Rainbow ! A very appropriate story for The Ark during the "farm theme" term ☺

A week late [apparently I had been marked down as having a birthday on the 26<sup>th</sup>, not the 21<sup>st</sup> - perhaps Mummy was too busy thinking about the biscuits to remember my birth date when asked] but everyone sang "Happy Birthday" to me ! AND I had 2 candles to blow out. Poor Charlie missed all the excitement as he was in the toilet ....

**Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup>**

We were on time today. Mummy decided to help brighten up the Farm display and headed to the craft table. This sudden interest in craft may well be related to the fact that it's the nearest table to the coffee hatch .... But whatever her motives, she did at least produce something to be stuck on the board: she used pretty much all of the tub of 101 crayons to decorate Joseph the amazing technicoloured goat ! I tried to be helpful by emptying all 101 crayons on to the floor... this was perilously close to 10am [coffee time] and Mummy got noticeably twitchy as she tried to pick them up as quickly as possible so as not to be too far back in the queue ....

**Thursday May 15th**

I was a grumpy little horror today. Apparently. But I did sign "please" nicely for my biscuits. I also pushed Daisy on the arm when she wouldn't let me play with the shopping trolley, which I suppose is a teensy bit naughty .... Mary's friend had brought her Mini-IQ books to sell, and lent Hilary one for story time. It was all about pants and very funny – well, the grown-ups laughed a lot, I didn't really understand it! No Les and Beryl today, so Mary played

the piano. Joan had to hold on to baby Chloe really tightly as she was bouncing along to the music very enthusiastically! Oscar turned up dressed as Spiderman – perhaps the costume was a birthday present as we later sang Happy Birthday to him. Laura (age 1 ) and I tried to do the actions for "Row Row Row The Boat" together, but by the time we got the hang of it, the song had finished! Better luck next week ...

*Susie Thomas pp Joe*

The end of the 2007/2008 school year draws to its close after a busy time in The Ark.. Fifty adults with children have visited us during the course of the year, several of them with more than one child in their care. Many of them come again and again and we are delighted to have made many friends among them.

Again we thank God for His care of us all, and we thank the people of the church for their prayers, so vital in the support of such a group as The Ark.

The term ends on 10th July, and we hope that we will be able to spend at least one of the two last meetings in the park - if the sun shines!

The Autumn term will begin on Thursday 18th September.

Joe's blog is keeping us all on our toes, thank you so much Susie for all your wonderful encouragement ☺

We thank you all for your generous support of this group,

*The Ark team: Hilary, Margaret, Susanna, Beryl, Les, Joan, Graham*



# Fellowship Meetings

During the last few months, we of the Fellowship have, by turns, been amused, enthralled, heartened and inspired by the speakers we've had visit us.

On 4th March it was Frances Farrer-Brown with her talk "Friends and Foreigners" which was a very amusing take on the highs and lows of running a B & B guest house in Littlehampton. Frances certainly found the funny side of life but it sounded like really hard work. She discovered the benefits of the Internet so was able to welcome guests from the near-continent who had seen her website - hence the "Foreigners". The Farrer-Brown children who helped by waiting at the tables were able to improve greatly the standard of their foreign languages. A number of us felt that we would really like a stay at Chez Farrer-Brown. #it would be a real tonic!

The visit we had from our friend Sylvia Parkington on 1st April was

an enthralling one. Not many people can say that they sang in Carnegie Hall in New York, but Sylvia did - along with the rest of the Angmering Chorale, with whom she sings regularly. They had been invited by composer Karl Jenkins, to join with other choirs in singing his Mass for Peace "Armed Man". One has to be really fit to perform on stage in Carnegie Hall because there is no sitting down throughout the entire programme - even rehearsals, so if you faint you are just left where you fall. Imagine it!! As well as the excitement of the singing Sylvia went on a solo adventure on the New York subway to see Ground Zero which she found very moving—but she was brave to go alone.

STOP PRESS: Angmering Chorale have been invited to return to New York in January to sing Karl Jenkins' Stabat Mater.

Most of you will know that there are plans to build a new St Barnabas Hospice and on 15th April Major Tom Wye (former Mayor) came to tell us about it. The location chosen is a 5½ acre field in Titnore Lane. The site of the present building is 2½ acres so you will see from that, that there will be much more space for walkways and lovely gardens as well as larger and better facilities in the Hospice itself. It all sounded and looked wonderful and was heartening to know that the marvellous work that St Barnabas has done over the years will be carried on for a long time to come. Thank you Major Tom for sharing your enthusiasm.

Most of our shopping streets have a pharmacy. Not too far away is our G.P.'s surgery. Within a few miles radius there are several hospitals - so - just imagine what it would be like to be treated for any kind of medical problem ONLY WHEN THE PLANE COMES!

This is what we had to think about on 29th April when David Norton talked to us about Mission Aviation Fellowship. M.A.F. This is when we were inspired! M.A.F. has been in operation for over 50 years and works in more than 30 countries flying to some of the most remote places imaginable bringing vital medical relief and development services as well as Bibles and the life giving Gospels of Good News. Most of the places the planes fly to do not have road access; even if they did, travel during the rainy season would be impossible anyway. This is why the services provided by M.A.F. are so necessary for so many people in Africa, Papua New Guinea, Mongolia, Brazil - Oh I could go on and on.

There is some more information at the back of the church. Please read and return it for others to see.

*Doreen Norris*



**W**e went on safari to Longleat on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May and it was great. There are too many words to tell you about the day, so here are some comments from the Pilots, officers and friends.

I held a snake called Hocus Pocus and I held a ferret.

I touched the snake and the ferret.

We travelled on a pink and purple coach with the Pilots from St Andrews.

Monkeys swung from our wing mirrors and played with the car aerials and windscreen wipers. The babies were soooo cute!

A tractor nudged the rhinos away from the cars. Jake the parrot kissed Rosie, another counted to ten! The adventure park was my favourite place.

I liked the bats, they were the biggest I've ever seen! And they came very close as they flew over. The Mirror Maze was great, Wilf chuckled all the way round. It was really fun! About 2000 Pilots were there.



'... I held a snake called Hocus Pocus ...'

The bumpy train ride was great, and gave us the chance to see the hippos and sea lions.

In the gardens we found a pet cemetery. The butterflies were colourful and beautiful.

The Pilots had a really great day out. Thank-you all so much for your support and generosity that enabled us to go.

*Valerie Cooper*

## Lazy M Line Dancers

Maggie Mitsuhashi started the group about seventeen years ago when members from other clubs where she was teaching, requested more Country and Western (C&W) dance nights, classes and tuition.

For the first few years the group used several different venues in the Worthing area and have now been meeting on Tuesday evenings in this Church Hall for nearly ten.

Our ages range from late thirties to mid seventies and there are usually around fifteen to twenty of us each week. We meet because we love to dance but if the dances go wrong it doesn't matter, the real aim is to have fun while exercising minds and bodies. (It really does take a lot of energy to remember all those steps)

A big ingredient to the evening is of course music. Some you like, some you don't, it all adds to the fun and over the years it has changed a lot. We started with the classic C&W songs from artists like Patsy Cline, Johnny Cash, Dolly Parton and Kenny Rogers. Then New Country Artists like Keith Urban, Shania Twain and Brad Paisley produced music with many more varied rhythms and now we even use popular music by artists like Abba, Chris d'Burgh, Scissor Sisters and Mika (I've never heard of them either - makes my head spin)

Dress styles have changed dramatically too. When Line Dancing first started it followed the Old West influence of the music, lone nights and days in the saddle riding across the open range, all Cowboy hats, shirts and boots occasionally even the odd set of spurs.



The Group after a show at Northbrook College

Cont'd next page ...



Cont'd from previous page —

Now we wear specialist dance shoes (it's a shame they don't know the steps) T-shirts with logos like "Don't follow me I'm Free Styling" or "How does it start" and sometimes lots of glittery Rhinestones.



Tuesday Evening Dance Night

Mostly though we wear our every day clothes and shoes because in the end it's not the music or the clothes or the dances, it's the people that you are with that keep you feeling good.

Thank you for letting us meet in your Hall.

*Maggie Mitsuhashi*

# THE ROWLAND SINGERS

As you may know the Rowland Singers rehearse each Wednesday on our premises and this year they are having a never-before concert with another group of singers. This is taking place on Saturday 21st June at the Assembly Hall at 7.30pm.

The Rowland Singers are joining with the Luton Male Voice Choir and together with Ian Flitcroft, who is an international concert organist for a concert entitled 'Music for a Mid-Summer's Eve'.

The programme includes, Amazing Grace, 76 Trombones & When the Saints go Marching in. We hope you will be able to come. The Conductor will be Jacqueline Emery,

Accompanist - Helen Emery and Derek Smith will be the Compere,

The tickets are £10.00 (Child £3.00 ) and can be obtained from us and Margaret Butcher.

We are also giving our usual 'Summer Showtime' concert at the Richmond Rooms. on Thursday 24 July at 7.30pm and our guests this year will be The Saxy Girls (a saxophone quartet).

We each have a file full of music so it will not be a repeat of the above concert, although one or two might be included. The Conductor & pianist are the same and the tickets this time are £6.00 (child £2.00) available once again from ourselves and Margaret. Hope to see our regulars there plus those of you who have never heard us before.

*Sheila and Roy Gooderham*

# HALL MATTERS

## HALL LETTINGS

We thought you should all know that over the summer period our halls are being used by groups who will be sleeping on the premises. There will be a group of about 9 people (they are special needs young people and teachers) from overseas who will be sleeping in the Cornwall Room from Sat 28th June to Sat 12 July. During the week they will be at Oak Lodge School but will be on these premises in the evening preparing meals etc.

All activities will be taking place as usual and we hope everybody will be considerate to them as they will be to us and make friends.

The second group are boys and girls from Addlestone Brigades and they are coming on 9 to 15 August. Not many church activities will be taking place then but people do come and go on and off the premises. They will be using various halls for sleeping BUT once again the Cornwall Room will be where they will be sleeping.

Both groups will be informed of all that is taking place on the premises.

We understand that both groups will probably be in Church at our Morning services.

*Sheila & Roy Gooderham  
Hall Lettings Secretaries*

## HALL IMPROVEMENTS

During the latter part of June, work will have commenced on the provision of cavity wall insulation, loft insulation and the replacement of a number of windows.

Worthing Glass have been given the contract to replace the windows on the north side of the Main Hall, all Toilets, Harris Room, Kitchen and Choir Vestry. They will also be providing new UPVC doors with wheelchair access to the Main Hall entrance.

RS Insulation will be providing cavity wall insulation to the Main Hall and adjoining rooms together with loft insulation for the Main Hall, Harris Room and Kitchen.

Both contractors have been advised as to when the various parts of the building will be in use and have promised to keep disruption to a minimum. There are bound to be times, however, when extra vehicles, vans etc will be parked on the driveway and a certain amount of noisy drilling will be inevitable.

We hope that you will be understanding and bear with us during this time, but we are sure that we will all benefit when the work is complete, giving us all more comfortable accommodation, certainly during the winter months of the year.

*Graham Redman  
Property Management Group*



## PUBLICITY

You may have seen some of our church groups or events mentioned in the Goring section of the Parish Pump page of the Worthing Herald, and also in the magazines Community Times Worthing, Goring Guide, and Essentially Worthing. In the weekly Parish Pump I have managed, over the months, to put in mentions for the fortnightly Fellowship speakers and meetings, Kestro, Pilots, The Ark, the Joy Services and quizzes, etc, with occasional reports on events we have held. I think that it is important to keep our church's name mentioned in the newspaper column, so that even if people do not come to the events they can see that quite a bit goes on within the church! Essentially Worthing magazine (a current copy of which is usually found in the hall) are happy to put in special events such as The Women's World Day of Prayer.

In the past I have sent pieces to the Goring Guide but as I don't receive that through my door and there is never a copy in the library I don't know whether they actually appear!!

If anyone has a regular copy that they could pass onto me after they have finished with it, I would be very grateful. Community Times Worthing is a monthly free magazine put through different doors each month so it may be difficult to track down but I send in regular details of our activities. The Worthing Sentinel is now going weekly and I have contacted the editor with a view to us sending in church snippets and he is interested in seeing what we offer!!

After the summer break when clubs etc recommence, please let me know if you would like me to send details of any groups or events to one of these publications, although I cannot guarantee they will appear! Deadlines for weekly papers are usually about five days before publication and the monthly ones obviously require at least 6 weeks notice. I must point out that we do not pay to have any of our items put into the various papers and magazines, it is completely free. If you have any ideas, suggestions, or if you know of any other local papers that we could appear in, please give me the details and also if anyone would like to tackle an issue suitable for The Heart of Worthing local Christian newspaper, then please let me know. Thank you

*Susanna Gauntlett*



## Saint George again!

Back in Crete for the Greek Easter, I was fortunate enough to get photographs of a couple of events new to me.

St. George's day, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, fell within the Greek Orthodox Holy week, so the celebration was deferred until the day after Easter Sunday, Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April. As well as homage to St. George, the patron saint among other things of animals, farmers, and workers in the field, all the Georges in Greece would be celebrating their Name Day. So, up early again, and off down to the little church of St. George, just below Exopoli. We parked on the road and walked down the lane towards the church. In a fold alongside the church wall were

enclosed a flock of sheep, doing what sheep usually do, milling around and busily munching the vegetation available in their temporary environment.

Many people were standing around outside the church which was decorated with flags and bunting. Only a very few were able to get into the tiny space inside: the priest and his official helpers, and one or two small children, who seemed to get everywhere! The service came to an end inside, and the priest emerged to continue outside, blessing the Holy Bread and the milk which was waiting to be distributed.

Then a procession formed, with the silver icon of St George at its head, followed by the old and rather battered painted wooden board with its faded image. Both were decorated with flowers. The procession circled the church three times.

The procession then went down to the sheep enclosure. Standing outside the fence stood a table bearing a bowl of water. A long ritual of blessing the water and a bunch of herbs took place, with incense, bells, - the lot. The sheep, meanwhile, were being 'encouraged' to move down to the near end to be closer to the priest.



'... a procession formed, with the silver icon of St George ...'

Like swift running water, this flock of sheep ran from one end to the other of their container. At last they were enclosed in a smaller space near the priest as he neared the end of the prayers. He then dipped the bunch of herbs, tied on to a little Cross, in the water, and with big sweeps of his arm, sprinkled the Holy water over the sheep, who looked as though they were expectantly waiting for their blessing.

This done, he took in his hand a sheep's bell, turned his back and



threw it over his shoulder. The sheep it hit had the bell tied round its neck until next year. The priest then entered the enclosure and together with one of the shepherds, held his stole high, like an arch, and the sheep were driven towards it. Once one sheep went under and through, the others followed, like a stream of rippling water, their bells gently tinkling as they ran. They were followed by the shepherds themselves, for their own blessing. Everyone went back up to the church

to be given their Holy Bread and wine or sheep's milk, then round to the table of boiled lamb, bread, sheep's cheese pies and wine or sheep's milk. We sat or stood, chatting to friends and relatives – it was all like a grand family reunion. "See you next year!" was often heard, as gradually people left. Sadly, many had to go to a funeral of a 50 year old who had died in the next village. Quick burial is still necessary in the villages. Busy day, Easter Monday!

After the funeral we set off for

Almerida on the north coast towards Chania. Another blessing was being asked during the afternoon on another venture: the opening of a cafe/snack bar/bar by the two men some of you may remember on T.V. in 'A Place Greece' – when you saw their house being built and a lot of trouble with a gigantic window which, by the way, never was installed! So the priest from the next village came in to help them to a good

start providing a menu including small ring doughnuts and fish and chips and sandwiches made with good well-known English sliced bread. Nostalgia takes on a new meaning when you can get a nice soggy bacon sandwich! So to all we say, all the Georges, the sheep and Brian and Andrew alike: 'Kronia Polla!' which means 'Many Years or 'Many happy returns!' and may God's Blessing be on you all.

*Mary Connelly*

# MAKING THE BIBLE HEARD

Worthing Bible Society Action  
Group invite YOU to a

## Summer Concert by The Worthing Youth Choir

Tickets £5.00 from church  
representatives or at the door  
Any enquiries phone 01903  
505987

**Saturday 21 June**  
**7.00 pm**  
**West Worthing Baptist**  
**Church, South Street,**  
**Worthing**

Refreshments and strawberries  
and cream



### Articles for The CHRONICLE

You can submit articles to the editor for inclusion in the Chronicle  
by any of the following ways —

1. E-Mail to [chronicle@gurc.org.uk](mailto:chronicle@gurc.org.uk)
2. Via the website - [www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle](http://www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle)
3. By post to Graham Redman  
5 Salvington Hill, Worthing, West Sussex. BN13 3AT
4. — or by hand to me, Graham on a Sunday at Church.

**Closing date for Autumn Chronicle 1 August 2008**

*[this is a departure from the usual closing date due to holiday arrangements]*

### Weekday Activities

Goring by Sea Pilots Company. 5-17yr olds	Monday Afternoon/Evening
Table Tennis	Tuesday & Friday Mornings
Tuesday Fellowship	Alternate Tuesday Afternoons
The Ark for Adults with Babies & Toddlers	Thursday Mornings. School Term times
Monthly Mid-week Bible Study	1st Thursday in month 10.30am
Kestro (Stroke Club)	Friday Afternoons
Choir Practice	Friday Evenings
Little Fishes Play Group	Monday-Friday. School Term times
Bible Study Groups	Various times & days

### Publication Team :-

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Telephone 01903 260568

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chronicle@gurc.org.uk

*The Chronicle costs approximately 75p each to produce. Whilst no charge is made for the magazine, the Church would be very grateful for any donations given to help towards its cost of production. There is a box provided for such purpose at the back of the church, or contributions may be made by post to Mrs Grace Ralph ( address above ). Thank you.*

**The CHRONICLE**

[www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle](http://www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle)

[chronicle@gurc.org.uk](mailto:chronicle@gurc.org.uk)





## Goring United Reformed Church

Goring United Reformed Church is part of the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom. Since May 2005 a Joint Pastorate was formed with St Andrew's United Reformed Church in Rustington, with whom we share Ministry.

The United Reformed Church has over 1600 churches in England, Scotland and Wales with a total membership of about 76000. It was formed in 1972 when the Presbyterian Church of England and the Congregational Church of England and Wales united, and was then later joined by the Churches of Christ in Great Britain and Ireland in 1981 and then Congregational Union of Scotland in 2000.

Goring and St Andrew's are part of the Southern Synod of the United Reformed Church whose affairs are governed by the General Assembly.

It was early in the 1930s that Worthing Congregational Church in Shelley Road began planning to build a new church in the rapidly growing area to the west of Worthing. The present building was opened in 1961, when the congregation became too large to be accommodated in the church building that is now the hall, opened in 1948.

Goring URC is part of Churches Together For Worthing, and Christians Together in Goring, with whom we often join for worship. The other churches in Goring with whom we share the Christian faith are English Martyrs Roman Catholic Church, St Mary, St Laurence & St Richard Churches of England, the New Life Baptist Church and Bury Drive Methodist Church.

*We are here to worship God and proclaim the love of Jesus Christ to all*



Goring United Reformed Church, Worthing, West Sussex.

[www.gurc.org.uk](http://www.gurc.org.uk)



# The CHRONICLE

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*Autumn 2008*

## **Harvest Festival 21st September**

*We thank Thee then, O Father, for  
all things bright and good,  
The seed time and the harvest, our  
life, our health, our food.*



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*The magazine of Goring United Reformed Church, Worthing, West Sussex*

## GORING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

— We share a minister with St Andrew's, Rustington —

*Shaftesbury Avenue, Goring by Sea, Worthing, West Sussex, BN12 4EA*

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## Worship in the Church Sanctuary

### Sundays

8.00am Prayer & Praise - with Holy Communion on first Sunday in month.

10.30am Morning Worship - with Holy Communion on first Sunday in month.  
- Family service monthly as announced  
- Junior Church with Crèche

6.00pm Evening Worship - with Holy Communion on third Sunday in month

### Mid-week

10.30am Bible Study on first Thursday in month



# The CHRONICLE

Vol. 65 - No. 616      Autumn 2008

## Front Cover

Flowers planted by the Pilots. “ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” Phil 4:7

## Articles for The CHRONICLE

Closing date for the Winter CHRONICLE magazine is the **1 November**.

Details can be found on page 16.  
[www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle](http://www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle)



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Supper and Beetle Drive.  
  
21st September:  
Harvest Festival.

# Reflections on Autumn

I am sorry if you are still on your summer holidays when you read this but I'm going to take a look at the approach of winter!

**BALANCING DARKNESS WITH LIGHT** The September 22<sup>nd</sup> equinox marks the arrival of the season of autumn, traditionally seen as a period of changes leading to the dark of winter. In ancient times it held perhaps more significance than today.



For one thing people were more in tune with seasons and in days before electricity or even candles the dark nights of winter were not welcome. On the autumn equinox, day and night are of equal length. This signals the need to balance light and darkness within us. Far too often, we fear the dark and are shy of the light. *22"The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. 23But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!*

**LETTING GO** As we watch leaves fluttering to the ground in the fall, we are reminded that nature's cycles are mirrored in our lives. Autumn is a time for letting go and releasing things that have been a burden. Many of our religious traditions mark such acts of relinquishment/repentance. Autumn is a good time therefore to let all that diverts us from God fall from our lives and instead letting the Spirit take charge. *31So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

**ACKNOWLEDGING IMPERMANENCE** Autumn reminds us of the impermanence of everything. We have experienced the budding of life in spring and the flowerings and profusions of summer. Now the leaves fall and bare branches remind us of the fleeting nature of all things. Jewish rabbi and writer Harold Kushner suggests that when we contemplate autumn's changes, we grow more appreciative of all the beauties that surround us: *19"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

*Yours in His service. Andrew  
[Bible references from Matthew 6].*



PILOTS' NEWS

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What have Pilots been up to since the last edition of Chronicle? We have been looking a little bit into peace in the community, and a few of us made some very complicated peace cranes and then some simple ones which turned out much better! Anna came to help us with this and they are still flying in the East Hall.

As the weather has been warmer, we spent one evening on the beach finding all sorts of different objects, some desirable, others not and those of you who came to our short service of thanksgiving in July will have seen them and helped us to make our sticky pictures, which were on display at the back of the church at the end of July and beginning of August.

An outing to the park came next, with kite flying, boule, skipping, swings and a good game of cricket, well it was until a small dog ran away with the ball, twice! And then Ruth knocked the ball over the fence!

For our last meeting we had a BBQ style picnic (gave me chance to use

the new cookers!). The weather was kind to us and we ate our burgers, hot dogs and cakes outside on the grass by the front of the church. This evening gave us the chance to meet three prospective Pilots and meet their families. We hope that a good time was had by all not just the Officers!

During the term 3 of the older Pilots and myself went to an evening called ADORE, put on by N VISION, an evangelistic outreach group to children and teenagers. It was an evening of youthful worship with young people from all over Sussex. Rosie won a prize, a CD by Lou Fellingham the lead singer of the worship leaders for the evening Phatfish. This was held at the Olympos Sports Centre in Haywards Heath, we are all looking forward to the next one in October.

We are looking forward to the summer break and Pilots restart on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 5:15pm.

*Captain and the Officers.*

# The Ark



A group for adults with babies and toddlers

The Ark summer term came to an end on 10th July. Did we get to the park ? No ! On the last two Thursdays of the summer term we always hope to have at least one "Ark in the Park", however once again summer didn't come in time.

We are always sorry to say goodbye to those children who will be at big school or other pre-schools in September, and we have wished them well as they begin a new chapter. We are also sorry that our good friend Susanna Gauntlett has also had to say goodbye as her hours at work have been increased.

Shortly after that news, we discovered that another good friend Joan Eley also thought it was time to hang up her scissors and glue brush, and retire from active Ark service. Everyone who has been connected with the Ark will miss both Sue and Joan who have been with us respectively four and two years. We thank you both for all that you have contributed to the happy days that we've enjoyed.

In the Autumn Beryl will be chief coffee/tea maker and Margaret will

make a sideways move to follow Joan at the colouring table !! All good fun indeed. We will continue with Les on the door and Graham's occasional help. Many 'thank you's' to for all the help given to this group.

During the year we have once again welcomed a good number of adults with toddlers. Everyone seems to like the couple of hours we have, mostly for chatting over refreshments, but also taking part in a few activities with the children. Again we were able to fill a box for the Samaritan's Purse appeal; we held a stall at the Christmas Fair; and one mum came who wanted to show us her selection of books and activities for sale.

Everyone who comes to the Ark likes it "because it's a small group" - so they say, but of course if they all come together it is quite a big group (32 children one week!)

Sometimes the push chair parking spaces are at a premium and, would you believe, sometimes there are not enough drums to go round at music time.

Now we look to the Autumn, and another beginning. Thank you to all of you who remember us in your prayers. Without your prayers and the unending work of the Holy Spirit it would be a difficult task. We never know who will walk through the door, what needs will arise, what pleasures there will be to share - The Ark is an exciting place, why not visit us one day ? Thursdays during term-time 9.15 - 11.15. *Hilary Redman*

## Joe's Ark Blog - Part 4



### Thursday May 22<sup>nd</sup>

Hilary played peekabo with me when I arrived, using the sliding sun roof of the car I was "driving". We have such swish cars here at The Ark ! My favourite is definitely the red mini convertible, but I also like the wooden bike with trailer. It doesn't have pedals, so I move it by pushing with my feet.

I was very artistic today - I spent lots of time on the craft table, alternating between colouring a little paper pig and my face. Bright green. Joan helped me add some pink to the pig, but she left my face as it was. You might have thought that Mummy would have intervened, but she was too busy chatting to Les to worry about me painting my face ... Ha - I bet you though it would have been an excuse related to coffee and biscuits !

### Thursday May 29<sup>th</sup>

OK, so technically it's half-term this week and there is no Ark. But with all the rain we had, we needed a **real** Ark ! And who should we spot whilst on holiday in Devon but Wilf and Eileen Rhodes! It's a small world ....

**June 5<sup>th</sup>** Today I got in touch with my feminine side, and proudly pushed the pram around. I didn't **totally** ignore my masculinity though, as I did fight Laura when she tried to take the pram away from me. I've never seen Mummy move so fast - well, not when there's no cake involved - as she really raced over to intervene. Spoilsport - Laura is about half my size so I'm pretty sure I'd have won the fight. I also did some drawing with Joan on the craft table. There were some really cool new felt tip pens - chunky and shaped like animals. Joan made it look really easy to use them, but I couldn't quite master it. But they made a really good sound when I banged them on the table as I tried to make a pattern! ☺

**June 12<sup>th</sup>** Joan and I made a great team at the craft table - she takes the lids off the pens and I scribble felt tip all over the paper, my hands and sometimes even my face! Great fun. I also had fun showing Jorja's Daddy that I knew the names of lots of the plastic animals arranged on the little table. I'm sure that he was bored with just his newspaper to read, so I came to his rescue by rushing up frequently with different animals. I'm sure he was delighted that I was so friendly! Mummy and I got soaked on the way home as we had expected to go swimming with Laura and Jenny, and therefore had brought my car seat but not the rain cover. Unfortunately, their Mummy didn't turn up, so we had a slow journey home in torrential rain with no rain

cover and a cumbersome car seat! That'll teach Mummy not to confirm arrangements on the day ... it was quite funny though, I can't imagine that we would have got any wetter even if we HAD gone swimming!

**June 19<sup>th</sup>** No Hilary! Apparently she has a sore throat ☹ Mummy couldn't remember being at the Ark without Hilary before; it seemed very strange. So we had lots of biscuits to make things seem more normal ☺ I even snaffled a half-eaten one that had been left on the table. In Hilary's absence, Margaret led the singing for us admirably - luckily HER throat was OK!

**June 26<sup>th</sup>** Didn't see much of Mummy today, she spent most of her time chatting to her friend Jo. I was VERY busy ... so busy that I only had time for 1 biscuit! I was working in the little café (there is a toy cooker set up behind some screens with a hatch for "serving"), checking that the baby toys were in working order (!) and drawing with Joan. She gave me a master class in fitting the tops back onto felt tip pens without drawing on my mouth or t-shirt first. ☺

It seemed very busy today, but there were enough musical instruments for everyone. I chose a drum, but abandoned it for "The Grand Old Duke Of York" because I really like it if Mummy carries me and throws me up into the air at the end. Luckily she always catches me! She did mutter about me being heavy though, so perhaps it's just as well that I only ate one biscuit ...

**Thursday July 3<sup>rd</sup>**

No Joan ! Apparently she doesn't want to come any more. Oh dear, I hope it isn't my fault .... I try to be good when I'm on the craft table, but I suppose that I am sometimes a little - OK, a LOT - noisy ...

**Thursday July 10<sup>th</sup>**

Joan was back, but this was her final day as a helper. I'll really miss her, as she was so patient helping me draw, and never once said "that's a bit rubbish" like my big brother Charlie does. [I'm only 2 for goodness sake, give me a break !] I tried to queue jump at biscuit time, but Mummy spotted me and set me back behind Daisy's Mummy. I chose the biggest biscuit of course - something called a "digestive" that was even bigger than my whole hand ! Excellent ☺

The boys and girls from Little Fishes came in to show us their Leavers Concert. Mummy recognized some of it from when Charlie was there last year ! She's a big fan of the song "When Mummy Says Get Ready Now, What Do You Say ? OK Mummy, OK". Personally, I don't tend to use the phrase "OK Mummy", I much prefer a simple "no" or even "No way" [copying my big brother]. And I say "oh dear" a lot too !

## Sunday afternoon swim for a Grass Snake



Spotted whilst we were sitting in the garden with a cup of tea. This one was about 30 inches long.

Apparently, grass snakes do eat fish, but they are more likely to feed on tadpoles, frogs and toads as well as newts. Most hunting is done underwater and prey is typically swallowed alive. They hibernate between October and March so you are safe to visit us then !!

*Hilary & Graham Redman*



## WARMER HALL AND ROOMS



**Out with the old**

### **... and in with the new doors and windows**

The 60 year old doors and windows were replaced with new UPVC units by Worthing Glass during July. They also provided new windows for the Kitchen, Harris Room, Hall, Toilets, Minister's and Choir Vestries.





## ... then the walls and loft areas

On a rainy morning early in August, RS Insulation arrived to drill and fill a number of the cavity walls with polystyrene bead insulation.

The Sanctuary has not been done at this stage, and because the East and West halls are of single wall construction it was obviously not possible to insulate by the same process.

On the afternoon of the same day, another team arrived to clamber into the loft spaces above the Kitchen, Harris Room, Elders' Vestry, Hall and adjoining toilets to roll out yards [or meters now !] of thick glass fibre blanket insulation.



Part of the Main Hall Loft

## ... and finally the finishing touches with the blinds



Brite Blinds fitting the last of the 5 roller blinds

As well as saving on our heating bills, we are sure that all who use our halls will benefit from the cosier premises. *Graham Redman and Property Management Group*

NB. If you are leaving the premises via the Main Hall doors, please ensure that they are securely closed and locked.



As I write this, KESTRO members and helpers are enjoying a well earned summer break. It's quite a commitment to organise meetings and transport (thank you Denise) for forty four weeks of the year and fortunately both helpers and

members are loyal and committed. We have been pleased to welcome new members during the year and also a new chairman and treasurer, Vic and Maureen Joy, and a new minibus driver, Steve Webber.

You will see from the photograph (by Carol Webber) that we had a very successful outing to Salvington Windmill recently. Some were able to climb up into the mill and all of us were treated to tea and biscuits. Our other outings this session have all involved churches; English Martyrs to view the 'Sistine' ceiling, St Richard's for their Flower Festival, and St. Andrews URC at Rustington for tea following a stroll in Mewsbrook Park.

If you would like to know more about KESTRO or think you could help please speak to Eileen Rhodes.

# Fellowship Meetings

By *DOREEN NORRIS*

I do hope you have all had a good summer. As I write this, there are a lot of grumbles about the heat. Never satisfied are we?

We, of the Fellowship, have had some pleasant events in recent weeks. At the end of May our outing was to Shoreham Airport. It was a fine day: we had tea and gorgeous cake whilst watching the planes coming and going. It looked as though it would be a very good lunch venue - not too far away, and plenty to do and see!


In June, Bobby Hitchin hosted her Annual Garden Party which is always a pleasurable occasion. This time the A.G.M. was included as it had been postponed from 13th May. Again we had a fine sunny day.

The July meeting was a "Cream Tea". Entertainment and a sing-a-long followed by sandwiches, scones, cream, jam and cakes - a lovely spread to be sure - and of course the best thing of all,

the joy of meeting our friends in a happy atmosphere. Our favourite things really:- 'eating and chatting'!!

The new Fellowship year begins on 9th September with Andrew Sellwood and fortnightly thereafter. Programmes will be available around that time.

Look forward to seeing you!



The 'Cream tea' in July raised £70 towards the Chestnut Tree House appeal for funds. It was a lovely afternoon with a delicious tea. It was disappointing that no-one from the Church fellowship joined us for the afternoon!

*Carol Webber* (secretary)

## A Senior Moment

**A 98 year old woman wrote this to her bank. The bank manager thought it amusing enough to have it published in the Times.**

“

Dear Sir,

I am writing to thank you for bouncing my cheque with which I endeavored to pay my plumber last month.

By my calculations, three 'nanoseconds' must have elapsed between his presenting the cheque and the arrival in my account of the funds needed to honour it. I refer, of course, to the automatic monthly deposit of my Pension, an arrangement which, I admit, has been in place for only eight years. You are to be commended for seizing that brief window of opportunity, and also for debiting my account £30 by way of penalty for the inconvenience caused to your bank.

My thankfulness springs from the manner in which this incident has caused me to rethink my errant financial ways.

I noticed that whereas I personally attend to your telephone calls and letters, when I try to contact you, I am confronted by the impersonal, overcharging, pre-recorded, faceless entity which your bank has become.

From now on, I, like you, choose only to deal with a flesh-and-blood person.

My mortgage and loan payments will therefore and hereafter no longer be

automatic, but will arrive at your bank by cheque, addressed personally and confidentially to an employee at your bank whom you must nominate.

Be aware that it is an offence under the Postal Act for any other person to open such an envelope. Please find attached an Application Contact Status from which I require your chosen employee to complete.

I am sorry it runs to eight pages, but in order that I know as much about him or her as your bank knows about me, there is no alternative.

Please note that all copies of his or her medical history must be countersigned by a Solicitor, and the mandatory details of his/ her financial situation (income, debts, assets and liabilities) must be accompanied by documented proof.

In due course, I will issue your employee with a PIN number which he/she must quote in dealings with me.

I regret that it cannot be shorter than 28 digits but, again, I have modelled it on the number of button presses required of me to access my account balance on your phone bank service. As they say, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

Let me level the playing field even

further. When you call me, press buttons as follows:

1. To make an appointment to see me.
2. To query a missing payment.
3. To transfer the call to my living room in case I am there.
4. To transfer the call to my bedroom in case I am sleeping.
5. To transfer the call to my toilet in case I am attending to nature.
6. To transfer the call to my mobile phone if I am not at home.
7. To leave a message on my computer (a password to access my computer is required. A password will be communicated to you at a later date to the Authorized Contact.)
8. To return to the main menu and to listen to options 1 through 8
9. To make a general complaint or inquiry, the contact will then be put on hold, pending the attention of my automated answering service. While this may, on occasion, involve a lengthy wait, uplifting music will play for the duration of the call.

Regrettably, but again following your example, I must also levy an establishment fee to cover the setting up of this new arrangement.

May I wish you a happy, if ever so slightly less prosperous. New Year.

Your Humble Client    ”

A SENIOR MOMENT — I hope I have them like this !!

### Bridge Club

We have had a request to start a Bridge Club on either a Monday or a Friday afternoon in the East Hall. Before this can be arranged we would like to know how many people would be interested in taking part.

If you would like to play, or would like to learn, could you please let us know and we will pass your names on.

Sheila & Roy Gooderham

### Oberammergau Passion Play

Rev John Jennings is organising a trip to Oberammergau in 2010 for the local churches in Goring.

The tour will be for 10 days and will include visits to other places besides Oberammergau.

If you are interested in going or in finding out more information, please telephone John on Worthing 237395.



## Being Shaped!

Home from church on a hot Sunday, I had my little T.V. set on in the kitchen while I prepared lunch. I found I was listening to one of Fred Dibnah's engineering programmes, with Fred lovingly touching, even caressing, some of the steam engines that had been carefully preserved from the time of many Industrial discoveries and inventions. Fred also talked about how these engines were made, and at one point the picture showed the inside of the foundry where molten iron was being poured into moulds and cast into engine wheels. Elsewhere, a huge lump of red/white-hot iron was being thumped and flattened by a great heavy steam hammer.

Then we moved to the smithy, where leather-aproned blacksmiths were busy hammering, fashioning, shaping levers and pistons. Fred, in his greasy dungarees, talked enthusiastically about all of the engines and the difference their manufacture had made to the world. I was reminded of my father, who had been a blacksmith and tool-smith, much like Fred to look at, but quiet and not loquacious, and without the greasy cap.

Every morning except Sunday, we woke to the sound of the hammer on the anvil and the thump and clink of masons' blunt chisels being sharpened. 'Clunk clunk, clink clink, and hissssss' into the water to be

cooled, then a duller 'clunk' as the sharpened chisel was thrown on to the pile of finished tools ready to be taken to the 'Monumental Mason's' sheds, for the workmen to use their skills with the hammer and chisel to inscribe everlasting words on tombstones and memorials.

Agricultural implements from the farming community lay on the ground: outside the smithy: broken ploughshares, harrows, feeding troughs, all sorts of metallic tools waiting for his skill and expertise in repairs. Evidence and signs of his inventiveness were also there in the shape of brass weather-cocks, house nameplates, small decorative grilles and large wrought iron gates. He taught me the difference between cast iron, bent iron and wrought iron. Of course, nothing was possible without the fire and its heat or the forceful hissing jet of the oxyacetylene welding flame to soften the unyielding iron and make it pliable. Smith's coal was used, smaller and finer than household coal, which, once lit, was able to retain a smouldering fire for a long time, and was capable of generating great heat when required.

In the early days, there were hand bellows to push up and down to create the draught needed to liven the fire, but during his wartime years in the R.A.F repairing aeroplanes, Dad learned the art of welding. With this newfound knowledge, and



the introduction of electricity to our village in 1947, he was able to put a cleverly constructed fan in its place making things much easier for him.

However, for some tasks, there was no electrical aid and that was when I would hear, "Mary, can you come and help me?" and out I would go to the workshop and pick up the hammer or the weight he thought appropriate for the job. Yes, back then when I was young and strong, I could wield an eight or even twelve pound hammer effectively! The problem would probably be that there was a piece of iron to be shaped as part of a gate, and was just too long for him to hold and manipulate and hammer at the same time all by himself.

The fire would be brought up to a glowing heat, the piece of iron would be thrust into the fire, the coals pulled well over the top with a flat ended 'rake' and the bellows applied again until the iron was as hot as it could be. Then Dad would hold the iron with the large tongs on the top of the anvil and I would strike, while he moved it and shifted it slightly to shape it. Reheated, it was shifted, hammered and battered and shaped again until it was curved to the correct shape to be part of a pair of gates.

When the gates were finished and stood there in all their glory, it was difficult to believe that they were made from the same iron bars that had been delivered from the big lorry some weeks before. On the lorry, they would lie, flat and black, dead looking. Brought into the workshop, they would still lie there, but in Dad's eye would be the spark of creativity, and he could

see their future beauty.

The same afternoon I saw the Fred Dibnah programme, I found a paper which had five points written on it in Dad's writing. Five sermon notes, based on his own experience. Father was a Methodist Local preacher and travelled around Cornwall, mainly in the Helston Circuit, preaching mainly to farmers and labourers and quarrymen and stonemasons, all of whom would understand and appreciate what he was talking about! Somewhere, I may yet find the whole sermon. Meanwhile, think on these words.

1. Being shaped.
2. By a power outside of ourselves.
3. We cannot save ourselves.
4. We must be pliable material.
5. Renewed. "If any man is in Christ he is a new creature."

James Stanley Spargo.

And words from the seventeenth century:

'Batter my heart, three person'd God;  
for,

You as yet but knocke, breathe,  
shine, and seeke to mend;

That I may rise, and stand, o'erthrow  
mee, and bend

Your force, to breake, blowe, burn  
and make me new.'

From Divine Poems, by John Donne. 1633

*Mary Connelly*

## Autumn Clearance Day 8 November

On Saturday 8th November, the Property Management Group are planning a day on which we can tidy the bank [... again !] and hopefully plant some shrubs etc. We can also use this day to clear the Resource Cupboard of unwanted items, so if you have things stored, please think about it before November. More than that we haven't yet planned — maybe we will need a skip — maybe we will need a number of trips to the tip — we will certainly need hands for gardening - so keep an eye on 'Welcome' nearer the time.

*Graham Redman*

1. What question was Jesus answering when he told the parable of the good Samaritan ? Luke 10:29
2. Whom did the five foolish virgins ask for oil for their lamps. Matt 25:8
3. What parable did Jesus give after the lost sheep and the lost coin. Luke 15

## Articles for The CHRONICLE

**You can submit articles to the editor for inclusion in the Chronicle by any of the following ways —**

1. **E-Mail to [chronicle@gurc.org.uk](mailto:chronicle@gurc.org.uk)**
2. **Via the website - [www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle](http://www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle)**
3. **Typewritten and by post to Graham Redman  
5 Salvington Hill, Worthing, West Sussex. BN13 3AT**
4. **— or typewritten to me, Graham on a Sunday at Church.**

**Closing date for Winter Chronicle 1 November 2008**

### Weekday Activities

Goring by Sea Pilots Company. 5-17yr olds	Monday Afternoon/Evening
Table Tennis	Tuesday & Friday Mornings
Fellowship Meetings	Alternate Tuesday Afternoons
The Ark for Adults with Babies & Toddlers	Thursday Mornings. School Term times
Monthly Mid-week Bible Study	1st Thursday in month 10.30am
Kestro (Stroke Club)	Friday Afternoons
Choir Practice	Friday Evenings
Little Fishes Play Group	Monday-Friday. School Term times
Bible Study Groups	Various times & days

### Publication Team :-

Printing and collating: Ken Woods. Telephone 01903 505177

Proof Reading: Beryl Richardson

Mailing Secretary & Treasurer: Mrs Grace Ralph. Telephone 01903 690714

Please send any contributions towards the Chronicle and mailing costs to her at -  
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Telephone 01903 260568

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chronicle@gurc.org.uk

*The Chronicle costs approximately 75p each to produce. Whilst no charge is made for the magazine, the Church would be very grateful for any donations given to help towards its cost of production. There is a box provided for such purpose at the back of the church, or contributions may be made by post to Mrs Grace Ralph ( address above ). Thank you.*

**The CHRONICLE**

[www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle](http://www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle)

[chronicle@gurc.org.uk](mailto:chronicle@gurc.org.uk)





## Goring United Reformed Church

Goring United Reformed Church is part of the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom. Since May 2005 a Joint Pastorate was formed with St Andrew's United Reformed Church in Rustington, with whom we share Ministry.

The United Reformed Church has over 1600 churches in England, Scotland and Wales with a total membership of about 76000. It was formed in 1972 when the Presbyterian Church of England and the Congregational Church of England and Wales united, and was then later joined by the Churches of Christ in Great Britain and Ireland in 1981 and then Congregational Union of Scotland in 2000.

Goring and St Andrew's are part of the Southern Synod of the United Reformed Church whose affairs are governed by the General Assembly.

It was early in the 1930s that Worthing Congregational Church in Shelley Road began planning to build a new church in the rapidly growing area to the west of Worthing. The present building was opened in 1961, when the congregation became too large to be accommodated in the church building that is now the hall, opened in 1948.

Goring URC is part of Churches Together For Worthing, and Christians Together in Goring, with whom we often join for worship. The other churches in Goring with whom we share the Christian faith are English Martyrs Roman Catholic Church, St Mary, St Laurence & St Richard Churches of England, the New Life Baptist Church and Bury Drive Methodist Church.

*We are here to worship God and proclaim the love of Jesus Christ to all*



Goring United Reformed Church, Worthing, West Sussex.

[www.gurc.org.uk](http://www.gurc.org.uk)

# The CHRONICLE

Winter 2008/09

*The Holly and the ivy,*



MH

*The holly bears a prickle,  
As sharp as any thorn,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,  
On Christmas day in the morn.*

*The magazine of Goring United Reformed Church, Worthing, West Sussex*

## GORING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

— We share a minister with St Andrew's, Rustington —

*Shaftesbury Avenue, Goring by Sea, Worthing, West Sussex, BN12 4EA*

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## Worship in the Church Sanctuary

### Sundays

8.00am Prayer & Praise - with Holy Communion on first Sunday in month.

10.30am Morning Worship - with Holy Communion on first Sunday in month.  
- Family service monthly as announced  
- Junior Church with Crèche

6.00pm Evening Worship - with Holy Communion on third Sunday in month

### Mid-week

10.30am Bible Study on first Thursday in month



# The CHRONICLE

Vol. 65 - No. 617      Winter 2008/09

## Front Cover

The artwork on this magazine's front cover was painted by Milly Hill, a member of the 'Painting for Fun' Group, which meets in the East hall on a Wednesday morning.

For information about this group, please speak to Mrs Jane Bond.

## Articles for The CHRONICLE

Closing date for the Spring CHRONICLE magazine is the 1 February.

Details can be found on page 20.

[www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle](http://www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle)



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**At the beginning of November people were already asking me, 'are you ready for Christmas?'**



Ready for what; the shopping, the cards, the presents, the visiting of in-laws, the food, or for the celebration of the birth of the Saviour of the world? What exactly am I, or indeed the nation getting ready for at this time?

Many people get over stressed at Christmas: the build up can generate high expectations, which may be impossible to fulfil. Folks also spend far too much money at this time: more, I believe, than any other European country. Even in these times of financial uncertainty people will still spend. The warnings of a potential recession will probably have the reaction of encouraging some people to indulge in an extravagant spend up to temporarily escape from the gloom, not worrying till later about actually paying the bills (a bit like the boom and bust fiscal system that a government might inadvertently adopt).

So this Christmas it seems sound advice that people should take the chance to just relax and spend a bit less. As we keep saying in the church, the real message of

Christmas seems to have been lost in the clamour for materialistic things. Surely the best present our families, our community, our world and we could have is knowing the peace that only Jesus can give.

So maybe this season we could all start in a small way to reclaim Christmas. Did you know only one in 100 Christmas cards sold in Britain contains any Christian imagery or message?

To try and disprove this worrying statistic a joint survey was carried out by several Christian organisations, but it revealed of about 5,500 cards sold in well-known High Street stores, including W. H. Smith, Clinton Cards and Hallmark, found fewer than 70 just over 1 per cent - had images linked to the Nativity.

Traditional pictures such as angels blowing trumpets over a stable, Jesus in his manger, the shepherds and three wise men following the star to Bethlehem are dying out. Instead, scenes of the Nativity have been replaced on cards by designs or jokes with little or no relevance to the Bible story and the true meaning of Christmas, wishing the recipient a "Happy December or Winterval" or even a few with "Xmas".

Religious groups warned that the multi-million pound Christmas card industry was losing sight of the real reason for celebrating the festive period. They also aired concerns that religious images were being scrubbed from cards because of political correctness and the fear of offending other faiths. That's not the case, I was reading that Christian and Muslim leaders in Bradford launched a campaign to save the traditions of Christmas from politically correct interference. Of course we can't tell shops what to stock or customers

what to buy but it would be nice if more cards carrying messages reminding people of the birth of Christ were being made, bought and sent. As you may expect Dr John Sentamu, the Archbishop of York, has hit out at Government departments sending Christmas cards wishing *Seasons greetings*, saying it was part of the 'systematic erosion' of Christianity in modern life. He went on to say, "If you feel the need to send a Christmas card you should go out of your way to buy proper Christmas cards and that may bring a bit of pressure on manufacturers and those who sell them."

So this year take the free gift of the Good News, Gods Son coming to find us and set us free, to heart and find peace in the Lord. *Small print: Remember no credit cards were used in this transaction; the price has been paid in full for our salvation.*

*A joyous Christmas from Andrew*

## Cornwall Room Improvements

As this magazine was going to print, we heard that the plans are about to be approved by the Borough's Planning and Building Control Departments. Once we have this approval, we will apply for tenders and costs and present the findings to the February Church Meeting.

At that meeting we also plan to give indicative costs for other proposed and forecasted works over the next few years. i.e. The Sanctuary Roof, Double Glazing, Insulation and Heating.

*Graham Redman. Property Management Group*

## Pastoral Care & Resources at Goring URC

*Jesus said "Love one another as I have loved you" St John Chapter 15 verse 12*

There are many ways in which we can show our love for one another, and here at Goring URC we have several resources which can help:-

### The Prayer Book

Please make use of the prayer book in the little chapel, situated just to the left of the pulpit. In this place of quietness take time to read and record prayers of thanksgiving and prayers of intercession. You are welcome to share joys and sorrows in prayer through the means of this little book.

### Something on your mind?

The Minister or a pastoral elder will hear you in confidence, and will pray with you and/or for you. If you are unable to get to church *please ask* for a visit. The names of the pastoral elders are listed in the church handbook. If you would like one of these please speak to Graham Redman.

### We can take part in the ministry of flowers: How?

The flowers that have been part of our worship on Sunday are taken out with greetings from Church friends to those who were unable to join us.

They are often taken to sick friends or those with something special to celebrate.

Would you like to pay for the flowers some times, either as a gift, or as a memorial or thanksgiving? Maybe you could arrange the flowers for Sunday worship? - then Carol Webber would be pleased to hear from you.

Do you have a car, and would you be able to use it to distribute flowers occasionally? Please let me know.

### We can visit those who are stuck indoors:

Perhaps you are available to visit people who are unable to get out, to have a little chat, do a little shopping, offer a lift in your car. Please let me know.

### The Book of Remembrance

The Book of Remembrance is in the Little Chapel. If you would like the name of a loved one recorded here, please let me have the details - name and date of death is sufficient.

If you would like help through pastoral care, or have a gift to offer in the care of others, then please speak with me as soon as possible.

*Hilary Redman, Pastoral Secretary.*

## Printing of *The Chronicle*

Ken Woods has printed and collated well over 10 year's worth of Chronicles, and has decided, sadly for us, to stand down from that duty.

He has been a wonderful support to me in not only printing our magazine to a very high standard, but also in managing the print room and liaising with the printer engineers, and ensuring that the Chronicle, Welcome and other publications are produced on time. I am sure that others who read the Chronicle will wish to join me in saying a big thank you to Ken for all that he has done.

The next question is, "Who will take over the printing and collating of the Chronicle?" Many will know that Mary Redman is now our Print Room Manager, but she is unable to be involved with the collation of publications.

If there is anybody who could help with our publications and would like to know more of what is involved, please speak to me (or Ken), it could be a team - one could print and others to collate and staple. In fact many Churches do have a team of people to fold and staple making it a social occasion.

So please do let me know if you'd like to know more. *Graham Redman*

---

## Letter from Eileen Jordan

Dear friends,

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your good wishes sent to me in so many different ways, as I start this new chapter in my life at Caer Gwent.

It certainly was not an easy decision to leave the flat in Carmargue Court where Ron and I had lived happily for 14 years, but I know I have made the right decision.

I have a pleasant peaceful room, the door opens out onto a patio with a seat, flowers and a sundial dated 1767 !. And I do appreciate the care.

The Sunday mornings are led by a resident, a member of Rugby Road church. There were 18 of us last time and though we had no pianist, I felt that we managed the hymns very well, even though we may have changed the key now and again. The sincerity of those elderly folks was obvious and I'm sure God blesses each one.

I still think of you all each Sunday morning about 10.30am.

*Blessings and love, Eileen*

## Joe's Ark Blog - Part 5

### Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September

No Joan, so I boycotted the craft table. I did cooking in the "café" with Chloe instead ...I hope Environmental Health don't check us out as her food hygiene skills leave a bit to be desired - I saw her licking the plastic sausages before giving them to the customers !

### Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September

I tried to do the actions to "Row row row the boat" with Annabel and her little brother Elliot, but we just couldn't quite get the hang of it. According to Mummy's scribbled notes, that's all I did today, which seems unlikely. It's far more likely that her brain was scrambled because I have been keeping her awake at nights. After all, there must have been biscuits involved somewhere ...

### Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September

Apparently nothing of note happened at all today. I don't think Mummy is trying hard enough here ....

### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

Before the Ark - which has an unusually early start for a toddler group - Mummy and I went to the Harvest Thanksgiving service at Charlie's school. Gave up trying to get younger boys and girls to do the "Row row" actions with me and went straight to the top: Hilary !



**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October**

Chloe is walking now ! But enough about her, let's talk about me ☺ I like jigsaws and tricycles. Today I also played with the play-doh, which is quite unusual for me. Not because I don't like it, but because it's the furthest table away from the biscuits and I don't like to stray too far away from the biscuits ...

I was very helpful putting away the chairs when we were tidying up- I even managed to put one little chair on top of another ! Mummy was pleasantly surprised that I was genuinely being helpful and not just making a horrible noise scraping chairs along the floor ... In fact, she was SO surprised that she forgot to pick up her handbag and we had to go back for it a few minutes later !

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October**

I mostly played with a Thomas the Tank Engine "computer" and my favourite wooden bike with its trailer. Mummy seemed to spend her time planning a Mummy's Night Out with Chloe's Mummy and Laura's Mummy to celebrate the latter's birthday and promotion. Why don't grown-ups have parties with jelly and ice-cream like us kids ? Whilst pondering this and other bewildering thoughts, I slipped off my chair and bruised my chin ☹

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October**

Overheard Mummy explaining to a new lady that Twinkletots wasn't held in the church hall anymore - I could

have told her that as I know that my friend Aaron used to go here and now has to go to Sompting for Twinkletots instead ! Chloe had not one but TWO of her grannies in attendance. (Is there a collective noun for grannies ? A knitting of grannies ? A cuddle of grannies ? Gosh, I have some pretentious thoughts for a two year old ☺ ). Oh - must mention this flabbergasting fact. I didn't want a biscuit ! Not one ! I expect Mummy ate it on my behalf though ☺

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October**

No Ark this week, as it was the half-term holiday.

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November**

Couldn't go today. I wonder if they missed me ?

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November**

Chloe's Grandad asked Mummy if she had realised that the Chronicle deadline had passed. She hadn't - oops ....

Hilary read a funny book about animals' knickers (!), but I was too busy running down the corridor to pay attention. Mummy was surprised as I usually love lift-the-flap books AND the chance to show off my colour recognition skills, but not today. Come to think of it, I didn't want a biscuit either .... Perhaps my body had been taken over by aliens ? !

Susie Thomas pp. Joe

**The Ark**

# Fellowship Meetings

by DOREEN NORRIS & JOAN BURRAGE

**Our new Autumn session** was very ably “kicked-off” by our Minister Andrew, on 9th September. He brought with him some “STUFF”, (his word not mine) and very fascinating it was too!

The sizes of Andrew's miniaturised hi-tech systems was so small as to be almost unbelievable. The Memory Stick for instance is less than half the size of a matchbox and contains thousands of items of data. No wonder these things are so easily lost! Communication and information was the theme of Andrew's message and as he pointed out - despite all the progress?? of recent years how much better it is to communicate one with another, trusting and caring on a personal level - Trusting in the Lord and caring for each other without having to rely on nano-technology for our well-being. Thank you Andrew.

## WHAT IS A MAGISTRATE?

On 23rd September our visitors were Bob Barden and Jackie Lee, both of whom are Magistrates. They gave us a most interesting and enlightening talk on what it means to be one, and the differences between a Magistrates court and a Crown Court. It needs a very keen mind and a good knowledge of human nature to know how to deal with the many folk who come up before the Courts and the scale of penalties given for the different crimes and infringements, and although we grumble about it, we are fortunate in this country that our legal and justice system is available to us in the form that it is. When one hears of the horrors perpetrated in places throughout the world in the name of the law, we must be eternally grateful for people like Bob and Jackie who work voluntarily and in their own time to uphold standards for the benefit of us all!



**CANINE PARTNERS - 7 OCTOBER**

*Canine partners is a progressive charity that aims to transform lives of people with disabilities, enabling them to live more independently by partnering them with highly trained assistance dogs.*

The above quotation is the Mission Statement of Canine Partners and we thank Gordon Tickler for coming to talk to us about this wonderful organisation. 2008 has been designated Year of the Assistance Dog so his visit was well timed. We heard about the choosing of likely puppies, mostly Labradors and Retrievers and the Puppy Parents who care for them for the first months of their lives before going on to start their advanced training, which, when completed, enables the dog to respond to approximately 100 commands. Imagine how that would help a wheelchair user in places like Supermarkets, lifts, pedestrian crossings and in so many other ways.

We were, by turns, amused and moved by the stories Gordon told us about the patients and the dogs that have made such a difference to the quality of their lives. We have all heard about Guide Dogs and Hearing Dogs so it is especially good to learn that people with other disabilities are now receiving help - Well done Canine Partners!

P.S. Should you wish to know more, there is a copy of Canine Partners Newsletter on the table at the back of the Church.

Please read and return. *DN.*

**21 October : Rev. Tony Trevithick**

took us on a journey - Penzance to Paddington. First Tony told the story of Penzance: once, before there were shops, bartering took place in the street. Gradually shops were built but the Cornish Cross had to be moved so carts could deliver their goods. It now stands in Penlee Memorial Gardens.

Tony said the challenge for us today is to keep the commands of Jesus - not easy in today's world when sometimes the Cross gets in the way.

We boarded the train - first class seats - and made our way to St. Erth, the junction for St. Ives. Then on to Hayle once a very busy port but now so silted up that the Harbour is now a marina. At Cambourne, the next stop, is a statue of Richard Trevithick, ancestor of Tony, who started the first small steam locomotive. On to Redruth where tunnels were cut through solid rock for the railway.

At Truro, the county town, we left the train to rest in St. Just in Roseland Peace Garden. Our next stop was St. Austell, home of the Eden Project, China clay, and where 'Kaolin' was discovered. The junction for Newquay, St. Blazey was next then on to Lostwithiel, the capital of Cornwall in the 13th century.

Sadly this was the end of the first part of our journey - do come again Tony to complete our journey to Paddington. Maybe some who have read this will join us and, who knows, there may be tea and biscuits on the train!

*JB & TT Edited*

# Christmas!!

Did you know that ..... ?



Christmas – Christ's Mass, the celebration of the birth of **Christ, the Light of the World**, is held on the traditional early Christian date – the real one is not known. When it was changed from Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> to Dec 25<sup>th</sup> by Pope Julius 1<sup>st</sup> in A.D.350, several pagan festivals, many of which were held in honour of the sun's rebirth after the winter solstice, were incorporated.

One of the early rites celebrated at this time was the Norse Yule sun-worship festival. **Yule logs** and **Yule candles** became a traditional part of Christmas, with the **symbols of fire and light**; also the northern European custom of the **candlelit Christmas tree**, along with **holly** and other **evergreens**, which was supposed to shelter the woodland spirits when other trees lost their leaves. In Windsor Castle in 1841, Prince Albert had **a Christmas tree covered in candles and ornaments with presents underneath**, thought to be the first in England. However, there is an account of a Christmas tree set up in a street in London in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Thousands of trees are now grown, felled and decorated each year, the biggest one being set up in Trafalgar Square, sent as a gift by the grateful Norwegians for help in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War.



**Roast turkey.** Henry VIII was said to be the first monarch to enjoy turkey on Christmas Day, though goose and beef continued to be popular. A boar's head was once the main dish in wealthy homes, a tradition from the Yule celebrations. The boar was considered to be sacred.



**The Christmas pudding** was traditionally made on 'Stir-up Sunday' [at the beginning of Advent]. Each member of the family would make a wish while stirring from East to West. Would that be to help the sun while at its lowest? The **brandy flames** would provide a token bonfire. Is it to honour the Three Wise Men? It was originally a kind of plum porridge.

**Mince pies** were once very large, made of shredded meat and called 'shrid pies'. They were made of mutton, tongue, or later, beef, with added fruit, spices and sweetening. Gradually the meat disappeared until the mince pies became the dried fruit pies we know, but non-vegetarian versions still contain shredded suet.

They were also called 'wayfarers' pies', as they were offered to visitors during the Christmas season. **Mulled Wine.** The word 'mulled' simply means heated and spiced. In olden days, these drinks were thought very healthy, and probably were, bearing in mind how contaminated the water might have been!



**Christmas Cards.** In 1843, Sir Henry Cole found he would not have time to write letters to friends in time for Christmas, so got an artist to design a card for him, showing merry-makers in the centre of the card, and the poor being clothed and fed at each side. The card cost a shilling, which was a lot of money at that time.

**Christmas Crackers.** In 1840, Tom Smith copied the idea of French Bonbons, sugared almonds wrapped in tissue paper. Later, he added love notes, which changed to mottos, increased the size and added a 'snap'. His sons put in paper hats/crowns and little presents or surprise gifts.



**Father Christmas and Santa Claus.** F.C. was of pagan origin and wore a green cloak and wreath of holly, mistletoe and ivy, symbolizing the coming of spring. Saint Nicholas, the Bishop of Myra in Turkey in 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D. who was known as the patron saint of children, wore red Bishop's Robes, and brought about the change of colour. In 1931, Coca Cola had an advertisement showing a red-robed F.C./ St.Claus – and that clinched it! Well, as long as he brings the presents and fills the stockings...!

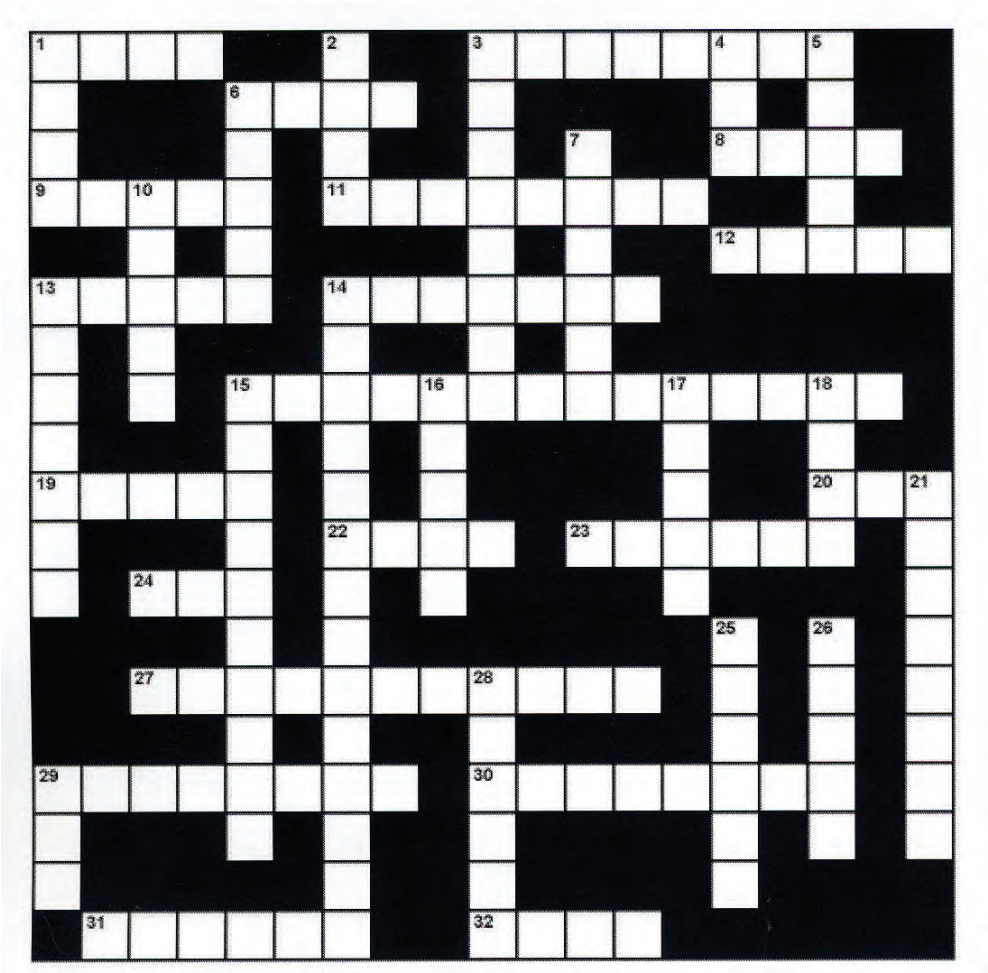
**Carol Singers/Waits.** 'Carol' - from the Greek 'Choros' – a dance, then into singing festive and seasonal songs, visiting houses, the poor people singing and begging for money and food. These days, the collections are mostly for charity. If they **waited** patiently, they might get pies or spiced ale!

What about a kiss under the **mistletoe**? A sacred symbol of peace, friendship and love, if enemies in Scandinavia met under mistletoe they would declare a truce. **Holly** in the cowshed helps the cows thrive, is protection against poison, evil eye, storms and fire. It can also remind us of Jesus' forthcoming suffering, the crown of thorns and the drops of blood.



*Happy Christmas! - Mary Connelly*

# Christmas Crossword





## Clues to Christmas Crossword

### Across

- 1 Transportation for going over snow [4]  
 3 Mixture of seasoned ingredients [8]  
 6 Baby's bed [4]  
 8 Period from 24 Dec. to 6 Jan. [4]  
 9 Red-breasted bird [5]  
 11 Twelve days after Christmas [8]  
 12 Drink normally served in a bowl [5]  
 13 Jolly [5]  
 14 News [7]  
 15 Goes with the turkey [9,5]  
 19 A type of tree used at Christmas [5]  
 20 The colour of Santa's hat [3]  
 22 \_\_\_ log;  
     traditionally burned at Christmas [4]  
 23 Sanctified [6]  
 24 Cured leg of pork [3]  
 27 Christmas song [6,5]  
 29 found under the Christmas tree ? [8]  
 30 Grace [8]  
 31 Snow falls in this season [6]  
 32 Given at Christmas [4]

### Down

- 1 Bright celestial body [4]  
 2 Christmas tree type [4]  
 3 Take aback [8]  
 4 No room here! [3]  
 5 Verdant [5]  
 6 Sweets; flavoured sugar [5]  
 7 Container usually found in a stable [6]  
 10 Beginning of life [5]  
 13 Amazing event [7]  
 14 Written after Christmas? [5,3,6]  
 15 Formal events [10]  
 16 Ring out from churches [5]  
 17 Accompaniment for food [5]  
 18 Printed or written greeting [4]  
 21 Month in which Christmas falls [8]  
 25 Nature of God [6]  
 26 One was born in Bethlehem [5]  
 28 Sweetened milk drink with alcohol [6]  
 29 Pastry dish [3]

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## **From our friends and partner churches in Ghana:**

The year 2008 has been a long and eventful year for the Rev. Samuel and his family. He stands at the edge of retirement and has started to build a home that will be their family home for the future. In the summer, unexpected flooding caused damage to work already undertaken, but they have overcome this. His young children from his second marriage with Mercy, after the death of his wife for many years Georgina, are growing well.

The year 2008 has been a very good one for Agnes Amissah and her seven children. Agnes is the lady whose husband Joe (teacher and church secretary) died suddenly in 2006 which left the family destitute. Thanks to two coffee mornings held at GURC and thereafter two families of our church giving financial support, mother Agnes was able to continue to pay the school fees for the children, and this summer her son Bright was able to finish successfully a three-year course in Accountancy at the Polytechnic of Cape Coast! Unfortunately, he had to join National Service for a year in November, since this is policy in Ghana. Bright's brother Fred has this year finished teacher training college with a diploma in basic education! The other brothers are still attending either school (the youngest is only 9 years old) or teacher training colleges, and the only girl in the family, little Bernice, who is now 11 years old, was the best in her class at the end of her school year! In his last letter, Bright wrote: My dream to become an accountant would not have become true, if it had not been for the prayers and the support of all the members of GURC. A big and heartfelt thank you!

The congregation of the Hope Presbyterian Church of Assin Nsuta, which is our partner/friendship church for which Joe K. Amissah worked as the church secretary, send their Christmas greetings, too! They are still in the process of re-building and improving the structure of their church building. They have had very bad flooding to cope with, but they have been able to keep the clinic going which is attached to their church. Sadly, the church secretary appointed after Joe does not have a very good command of English and this makes communication less easy. However, nevertheless, the Hope Church do wish us all a happy Christmas!

*Monika Leal*



## A Christmas Message from Ghana



A happy and joy-filled Christmas and a peaceful, healthy and happy new year to all the people at GURC!

May the LORD richly bless you for all you have done for us,

Rev. Samuel and Mercy Nkrumah, and the congregation  
Agnes Amissah, widow of Joe K. Amissah and family





## Christmas & New Year Services at Goring United Reformed Church

### Sunday 21 December

Christmas Worship with Carols: Rev Tony Trevithick 10.30am  
*Refreshments afterwards*  
Carols by Candlelight: Rev Andrew Sellwood 6.00pm

### Christmas Eve

Carols for Adults and Children 5.30pm  
*Mince Pies afterwards*  
Mid-night Holy Communion 11.30pm

### Christmas Day

Family Worship: Mr Wilfred Rhodes 10.30am

### Sunday 28 December

Morning Worship: Mr Wilfred Rhodes 10.30am  
No Evening Service

### Sunday 4 January

Morning Worship: Rev Andrew Sellwood 10.30am  
- also worship at 8.00am and at 6.00pm





## WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

**6<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2009**

It may seem rather early to be writing about Women's World Day of Prayer but Papua New Guinea (PNG), the country chosen for next year's service, has been working on the materials since 2005 and our National Committee since November 2007.

During this Autumn 62 Regional Conferences will have been held throughout England in preparation for the Day, which has the theme 'In Christ there are many members yet one body'. Papua New Guinea is a South Pacific dream, but is not without its problems.

Its 6 million people speak 800 distinct languages and 1000 dialects and communication is even more difficult because of the mountainous jungle terrain and its 600 islands. Approximately 96% of the population are Christian.

The many social issues to be found in PNG, including violence in all its forms, have made the churches realise that they cannot remain silent.

All the denominations are working together to spread the love of God within homes and communities, hoping that this will influence society and be reflected in the nation.

Surely there could not have been a more appropriate theme for these people than: 'IN CHRIST THERE ARE MANY MEMBERS YET ONE BODY'

It's never too early to start praying for the needs of PNG and for the Day of Prayer. Please speak to Eileen Rhodes if you would like more information, and please put the date in your new diaries.

*Eileen Rhodes*

## THE SOUTHERN SYNOD MEETING

East Croydon URC Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2008

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This is my 9<sup>th</sup> Synod report. Rev Chris Parker; minister of the East Croydon Church opened the day with devotions. People coming into churches and those retiring were introduced to the Moderator, and these included Rev Margaret Ashby to Durrington; Rev Roger Wood to Hove Hounsom and Portslade; and Charles Martin to Lindfield.

The death of Rev Douglas Smith's wife was announced, and also of Rev Cyril Franks. It is hoped to have a memorial service for him on 17<sup>th</sup> January after the next Synod held in the morning only.

There was a report from the Mission & Strategy Committee by Rev Michael Davies about the future of the Southern Synod. He said that the only thing the Church exists for is to spread the Word. Apparently the Committee had spent lots of time defining the work of Synod, and producing a comprehensive interim report. This is available to anyone who would like to read it! After various comments – some from Rev Richard Alford of Rochester who always has something to say – the Moderator broke into song, which I suppose was a Ghanaian rendering as he then spoke about our connections with the church there, also our connections with the church in sub-Carpathian Ukraine, and that in the Diocese of Ryalseema in South India. The Moderator had visited India and bishops from the Ukraine had come to England. It was agreed to make grants of funds to the Ukraine church for building projects; and a loan to the Indian church as a security for a loan from an Indian bank. The Moderator spoke at length about all this, and though our funds were limited, theirs were far more so. Our relative bounty would be good for their great need. In India Pastors get £120 per month, and pensions of £12½ per month. One speaker proposed that every church in the Synod should donate £500 to the scheme. This was NOT taken up. I did not totally understand all the details, but the URC does have quite large funds in the bank at the moment.

The Synod office was discussed, as at the last Synod it was said that the premises were no longer suitable and staff and officers wished to move. After much waffle it was decided to stay put and use some extra accommodation in East Croydon church.

We then came to the discussion of Ministerial Deployment in the Synod. This was the most important item of the day, but was not covered in the detail that many thought it should have been. Perhaps because there will be 3 "Road Shows" around the Synod to tell everyone what is involved. The Road Show nearest to us will be held on Tuesday evening 25<sup>th</sup> November at Emmanuel Church. All our Elders should attend, and as many members as can. We shall then come together in December or January to discuss it all, and report our feelings to the Synod by 15<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at the latest. A new policy for the distribution of ministers is to be drawn up, and Lay Leaders to be appointed to work with Ministers. Of course there were several strong views put, including the need to look at other denominations, and also Churches Together groups would affect some areas. .... and then thank heavens, lunch.

After that we continued with the Deployment of Ministers. Many speakers waffled, but it appears that a Lay Leader is required by all churches, and could be an ordained minister, an ordained elder, or a lay member. The Road Shows will be for everyone to attend, and the relatively short notice is so as not to wait too long for the answers to all our questions.

Rev Michael Davies then spoke about General Assembly resolutions.

Rev David Coleman of Brighthelm spoke about C.W.M – Council for world Mission – a celebration is being held on December 6<sup>th</sup> between the Congregational Federation and the URC at Upton Chapel, London.

Rev Sue Henderson then reported from the Synod Pastoral Committee. She spoke about “Lay Presidency” guidelines. All officiating at Holy Communion must be authorised, and must have completed an approved course. Problems arise with other partner churches that do not recognise ordination of Elders and Lay Presidency.

Rev Bruce Stuart of New Malden URC spoke about an Interfaith discussion at Leatherhead U.R.C. on 11<sup>th</sup> January and 8<sup>th</sup> February from 4 – 7 pm.

Synod accounts were then discussed, and I have fuller details should anyone wish to see them. The Lomas House contract to sell appears to have fallen through. It was hoped to sell the property by April to Phoenix Homes, but the problems in the building industry seems to have stopped this, as the Company cannot develop the site.

Rev Peter Southcombe spoke about the London Strategic Development. This concerns the formation of a London Synod, but not yet as Thames North and Southern Synods have not yet got together on it. All the redevelopment in London has a bearing on it, and there is more redevelopment going on at the present time than there was after W.W.II The churches are very interested in this and in the Olympics. The Olympics are not coming – they are already here and the U.R.C. is already involved!

A Lay Preacher then spoke on behalf of Rev Jennie Snashall, Lay Preaching Commissioner. There are 166 churches in the Southern Synod, with 102 ministers, and more lay Preachers are required. It seems in a short time there will only be 59 ministers. The story was told of the little boy who gave a preacher 50p after a service, and told him that his Dad had told him that he was a very poor preacher! In preaching one needs a good beginning, a good ending, and keep them as close together as possible!

Nick White, Youth Development Officer, spoke about “Turning the Tide”. This is a scheme to turn the tide of children and young people from leaving the Church. He helps local churches get grants to employ Youth and Children’s Workers, and he talked about their work. One church had had one for 7 years.

Then as a part of the work of “Church and Society” a director from a Homeless Project in Crawley spoke at great length about their work.

*Wilfred Rhodes.*



## Articles for The CHRONICLE

You can submit articles to the editor for inclusion in the Chronicle by any of the following ways —

1. E-Mail to [chronicle@gurc.org.uk](mailto:chronicle@gurc.org.uk) or via the website - [www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle](http://www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle) [either method preferred]
2. by post to Graham Redman  
5 Salvington Hill, Worthing, West Sussex. BN13 3AT
3. or [NEW] put in the Chronicle Box at the back of the Sanctuary

**Closing date for Spring Chronicle 1 February 2009**

- 1: Which prophet said, "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son"?  
a: Isaiah, b: Jeremiah, c: Ezekiel, or d: Daniel
- 2: What does the name Emmanuel mean?  
a: God is for us, b: God is with us, c: God loves us, or d: God saves us
- 3: In what month of Elisabeth's pregnancy did the angel appear to Mary?  
a: Fourth, b: Fifth, c: Sixth or d: Seventh
- 4: What is the name of the angel who appeared to Mary? a: Uriel, b: Gabriel  
c: Michael, or d: Raphael,

5: Who sang, "My soul doth magnify the Lord"?  
a: Elisabeth, b: Angels,  
c: Mary, or d: Joseph

6: The angel said to Mary that Jesus would reign over the house of -  
a: David, b: Solomon, c: Jacob, or d: Abraham

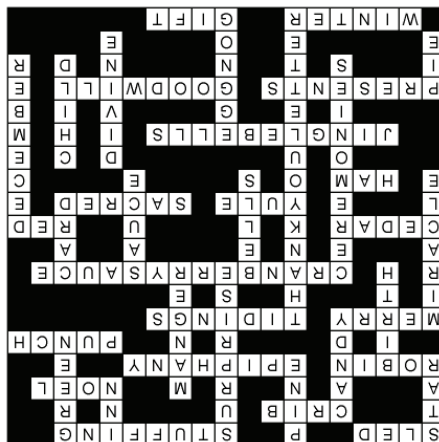
7: Which Caesar decreed that all the world should take part in the census?  
a: Augustus, b: Julius, c: Nero, d: Claudius

8: Who said, "A light to lighten the Gentiles, and glory of thy people Israel," when he saw Jesus?  
a: Joseph, b: Angels, c: Simeon, or d: Zacharias,

Answers :-

1a, 2b, 3c, 4b, 5c, 6c, 7a, 8c

### Solution to Crossword on page 12



### Weekday Activities

Goring by Sea Pilots Company. 5-17yr olds	Monday Afternoon/Evening
Table Tennis	Tuesday & Friday Mornings
Fellowship Meetings	Alternate Tuesday Afternoons
The Ark for Adults with Babies & Toddlers	Thursday Mornings. School Term times
Monthly Mid-week Bible Study	1st Thursday in month 10.30am
Kestro (Stroke Club)	Friday Afternoons
Choir Practice	Friday Evenings
Little Fishes Play Group	Monday-Friday. School Term times
Bible Study Groups	Various times & days

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*The Chronicle costs approximately 75p each to produce. Whilst no charge is made for the magazine, the Church would be very grateful for any donations given to help towards its cost of production. There is a box provided for such purpose at the back of the church, or contributions may be made by post to Mrs Grace Ralph ( address above ). Thank you.*

**The CHRONICLE**

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## Goring United Reformed Church

Goring United Reformed Church is part of the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom. Since May 2005 a Joint Pastorate was formed with St Andrew's United Reformed Church in Rustington, with whom we share Ministry.

The United Reformed Church has over 1600 churches in England, Scotland and Wales with a total membership of about 76000. It was formed in 1972 when the Presbyterian Church of England and the Congregational Church of England and Wales united, and was then later joined by the Churches of Christ in Great Britain and Ireland in 1981 and then Congregational Union of Scotland in 2000.

Goring and St Andrew's are part of the Southern Synod of the United Reformed Church whose affairs are governed by the General Assembly.

It was early in the 1930s that Worthing Congregational Church in Shelley Road began planning to build a new church in the rapidly growing area to the west of Worthing. The present building was opened in 1961, when the congregation became too large to be accommodated in the church building that is now the hall, opened in 1948.

Goring URC is part of Churches Together For Worthing, and Christians Together in Goring, with whom we often join for worship. The other churches in Goring with whom we share the Christian faith are English Martyrs Roman Catholic Church, St Mary, St Laurence & St Richard Churches of England, the New Life Baptist Church and Bury Drive Methodist Church.

*We are here to worship God and proclaim the love of Jesus Christ to all*



Goring United Reformed Church, Worthing, West Sussex.

[www.gurc.org.uk](http://www.gurc.org.uk)