

The CHRONICLE ARCHIVES

Spring, Summer, Autumn & Winter 2007

Volume 64

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

The new CHRONICLE

Spring 2007



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 Holy Communion: on first Thursday in month
- 2.30pm Prayer and Praise on first and third Thursday in month

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Front cover: A banner for The Ark made by Doreen Norris.

You may have seen this banner on display in the main hall above the Ark's notice board.

News of The Ark — see page 8

600th Issue of The Chronicle

600 issues of this magazine have been produced since its first copy went to print in 1944. The Church was then meeting in Elm Grove School Hall and did so until a new Church was built here [now the Church Hall] in Goring in 1948.

You can read about the Church history on the web at :-

www.gurc.org.uk/about_us/history.htm

Articles for The CHRONICLE

Closing date for next magazine is the 15 August. You do not need to wait to be asked before submitting something.

Details can be found on page 20.



A Reflection

by Rev Andrew Sellwood

The other morning I tuned into the Today programme, I missed the beginning of a discussion but heard the following comment; *"All religions are fairy tales ... All religions are evil ... faith is irrelevant to people's lives"*. These were the words of a well-known TV personality seemingly well educated and who has now become a minor politician. I think you will agree that is quite a sweeping set of statements and as usual seemed to go unchallenged. I have a few problems with his point of view as you may expect. But it is perhaps easier to address this position than some woolly confused Christian comments that float through the media. It seems in our country over recent years there have been more and more attacks on religion. Not just Christianity (it is locked in the past and irrelevant) but Islam (its all about terrorists) and Judaism (they need to get on with the Palestinians) there are also a proliferation of odd and extreme cults springing up endorsed by celebrities. This all goes to provide a simplistic but confusing mix of thoughts and theologies.

To many people in our increasing secular society all religions seem to be either some kind of threat, a quaint minority practice or a cultural observance. So there we have it; a starting point for dialogue albeit a shaky one. If people were to choose a religion it seems they would want to design it for themselves, probably choosing a nice god who answers

(Continued from page 2)

all their prayers providing them with enough money and good health, and leaves them alone until they want something, a bit like a genie. Talking to un-churched people you soon begin to draw out a very strange perception of Christianity. It is a widely held view that our God is harsh, unapproachable and makes too many rules. There is also a division between this harsh God and Jesus because Jesus was a good man, [and for many the Holy Spirit is a total mystery]. So our task is to understand and address some of these issues before we can present the Gospel. There is also the confusion between religion and faith; it is faith we are primarily concerned with. For we speak of a living faith in Jesus.

As we come to celebrate the events of the first Easter we find resources to counter the comments of the radio show, firstly our faith is not based on fairy tales but on the word of God and stacks of historical evidence. Jesus' birth divides history but the cross bridges the gap between heaven and earth. There is no question that Jesus existed; the problem is over his resurrection, but fortunately Paul records some 500 witnesses to the risen Lord. The disciples gave their lives for what they believed and thousands

over the years have laid down their lives for what they held dear. Jesus came into the world with a radical mission to transform human life and to reveal the love of God. That doesn't sound too much like a fairy story as it is so grounded into the reality of the human struggle to seek and find truth and purpose.

Christianity is in no way evil; it is the opposite of evil, light in the darkness. Throughout scripture we find the constant struggle between good and evil and because of Easter we see good prevail. Jesus in defeating the cross took away sin, death and all that would tie us into the world once and for all, giving us the promise of eternal life.

Faith is totally relevant to people's lives. We see this from the millions and millions of individual testimonies of how God brings hope in place of despair. Our God is dynamic and through His Spirit gets involved with individuals and desires to have a relationship with us. He is not some distant dusty ancient deity but a living transforming creator who we can call Father.

So maybe it is a good thing we have these negative comments about the faith; it gives us a chance to speak out and proclaim the Gospel.

Yours in His service Andrew

The Windermere Centre



The United Reformed Church's Conference and Holiday Centre in the Lake District has a newly produced programme for 2007.

There is something happening every week in every month.

Midweek events as well as weekend events.

A 5-day "Painting in Spring" to be held this month costs £220.

Learn how to tell stories and communicate, led by Elizabeth Caswell, Assembly Moderator in April costs £160

Programme 2007

The Bible in a weekend in May costs £110

There's a singing weekend in July and a walking week in August

All sorts of craft workshops

Even Christmas House Parties.

Working periods and study periods.

Something for everyone, young and old!! All found too. Very comfortable, and even a special fund to subsidise those who find the fees difficult.

I am the contact for the Centre, and have full details of the programme, which is also on the notice board in the church vestibule.

Do please contact me for details.

Wilf Rhodes.



Services in this Church during this Easter

Palm Sunday 1 April	8.00am 10.30am 6.00pm	Early Morning Holy Communion Morning worship with Holy Communion Evening Worship
Maundy Thursday 5 April	7.30pm	Celebration of the Last Supper
Good Friday 6 April	10.30am	A service for Good Friday
Easter Sunday 8 April	8.00am 10.30am 6.00pm	Prayer & Praise Celebration for the Risen Christ Easter Evening Worship

Other Service times and a full diary of events can be seen on

www.gurc.org.uk/diary



Church Flowers

The 2007 Flower Ministry list is available on the notice board.
Please sign up if you would like to provide the flowers for the
sanctuary on a particular date. If you are willing to also arrange
the flowers fill in both columns. There is a tin on the table at the
back of the church for contributions to the funds. *Carol Webber*



“Love One Another As I Have Loved You”

St John Chapter 15 verse 12

There are many aspects to the life of the church, and one of these concerns the way in which we care for one another, not only those who worship with us on Sundays, but also for those with whom we come in contact during the week.

The Prayer Book in the Little Chapel

The greatest resource the Church can offer is the power of prayer through Jesus Christ. Jesus taught His disciples how to pray and spent much of His own time talking with His Father God.

There is a prayer book in the Church, in which to record prayers. The book contains prayers of thankfulness and joy, prayers of sadness and concern. There are prayers for the sick, the dying and those in need. The prayers are written by individuals who would like the Church to remember them in prayer.

You are invited to use this resource. If you are unable to do this for yourself please send your prayer requests to the Pastoral Secretary who will be pleased to add your prayer to the book. This can be done quite anonymously.

A Team of Elders

We are blessed with a team of elders and friends who, in conjunction with the Minister visit those who have personal needs. It is good to know that there is always someone in whom we can confide. It is also good to know that we can share our concerns for others, in confidence, with someone who will be understanding. Please let the Minister or the Pastoral Secretary know if you would appreciate a confidential chat or if you are unwell or are in need of help. Don't forget to let us know when there is good news to share too!

Holy Communion

If you would like the Minister to visit you at home with Holy Communion please let him know.

Book of Remembrance

In the Little Chapel you will find the Book of Remembrance. This book contains the names of loved ones who have died. These are not only the names of people who have worshipped here, but names of relatives and friends too. If you would like a name recorded in the book, please let me have details of the name and the date of death.

Confidential Forms

These forms are available to anyone who would like the Minister to know their preferences concerning the conduct of their funeral arrangements. The forms are kept confidentially to be opened only in case of need. Whether you live alone or not these forms can give peace of mind and avoid possible confusion at a later date, so please ask for this resource.

Church Flowers

The flowers which are prepared each week to enhance the worship on Sundays are usually distributed to members and friends at the beginning of the following week. If you know of someone who would appreciate a bunch of flowers and a message to tell them that their church friends are mindful of them, both in joy and in sadness, then please let me know. See also 'Church Flowers' on page 4.

Are you hard of hearing or partially sighted?

The church amplifies the services through a loop system for those who find it difficult to hear. There are large print hymn books and news sheets available for worship.

Tape Recorded Services

The 10.30 am service is recorded especially for those unable to come to church, Please let me know if you would like to make use of this resource.

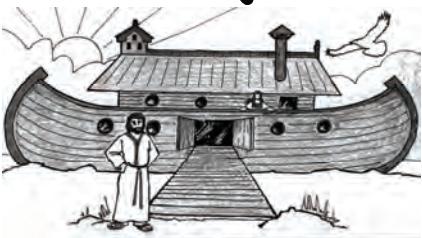
Contacts

The Minister Rev Andrew Sellwood can be contacted by telephone, 01903 248259, or by e-mail: minister@gurc.co.uk

Pastoral Secretary, Mrs Hilary Redman at: 5 Salvington Hill, BN13 3AT, Telephone: 01903 260568, E-mail: pastoral@gurc.co.uk.

Hilary Redman, Pastoral Care Secretary

The Ark



If you are new to the church magazine it might be helpful to know that **The Ark** is a group for adults with babies and toddlers. We meet once a week during term time on a Thursday morning.

We have coffee/tea/squash at about 10 o'clock and the children play with a variety of toys, play in the Wendy house or with playdo or they sit and do colouring and gluing.

We have instruments for 'marching' songs and often we have stories.

The aim is to provide a safe place to meet others in similar circumstances, and with whom experiences - both good and not so good - are shared. The Minister, Rev Andrew Sellwood usually comes to meet us all and is happy to have a quiet chat over coffee.

What else do we do?

Over the past year we have made some pictures for our wallboard which include the artwork of both adults and children - all very

talented and very colourful. We have made pictures of Springtime, transport, nursery rhymes, and we made a collage entitled "God made ... Everything"

Each term we welcome a visitor who brings something interesting to sell. Last year we hosted "Little Clothes Horse" "Tiny Shoes" "Usborn Books" "For Ever Living - Aloe Vera products".

Once again we collected items for the Samaritans Purse Appeal and this year we were able to send off four shoe boxes.

We held a stall at the church Christmas Fair, and raised some extra money to go towards our funds as well as giving the church a donation. It was good fun and lots of children came with their parents and enjoyed visiting Santa, eating popcorn, and spending a few pennies !

One of our mums spent the morning face-painting and she was busy all morning !

The Ark seems popular because it is a 'small' group, but we have reached a happy stage where if all our regulars were to come on the same day it would be a 'big' group.

Never-the-less all are welcome, and we looked forward to each week to see who is coming to play.

One day just before Christmas we had a visitor who brought us a present. It was Doreen Norris, one of our church members. She had made a beautiful banner especially for **The Ark**. It now hangs in pride of place above **The Ark**'s wallboard in the hall, and you can see a picture of it on the front cover. Thank you very much Doreen for your lovely gift which reminds us that we take our name from the Bible account of Noah and **The Ark**.

On 18th February we welcomed two Ark families at Sunday worship. Jo and David brought their second daughter Nessa to give thanks for her safe arrival and dedicate themselves to bring her up to know about Jesus, and Susie and Ryan brought Joe for Infant Baptism. Members of the church promised to support these families with their love and prayers and to provide Christian education at Junior Church.

The door is locked to keep us safe, but ring the door bell and Les will let you in.

- Coffee is timed for about 10 o'clock, open the hatch and Margaret and Sue will serve your refreshments.
- Bang on a drum and Beryl will play a tune on the piano.
- Want to draw, stick or cut out? - then Joan will pass you the things you need.
- Want to sing ? - Hilary has the words.

Want to have a fun morning? - Come and join us !

We are always conscious that this group is supported in prayer by members of the church. We thank you for that support for without it we would not be able to function in the way in which we do.

To contact **The Ark** telephone Hilary: 01903 260568

We also have a Web presence - www.gurc.org.uk/ark

Maggi's Poodles



Dog Dancing and All That

We are a small group of friends who hire the small hall on Wednesday evenings, once a week, for an hour, to train our dogs. We called ourselves Maggi's Poodles after Maggi the Jack Russell who we consider an honorary Poodle. The Miniature Poodles who make up the rest of our number are Morris and Lola.

Eventually, when we consider ourselves to be good enough, we hope to be able to perform demonstrations at Fêtes and small dog shows, with the aim of raising funds for our favourite animal charities. We would allow like-minded people to join us and we are really hoping that eventually we can build up our numbers but we hope the "troupe" will be mainly made up of poodles as they are so keen to show-off their skills and we are mad about the breed!!

We started off with a great deal of help from Sue Davies who is an excellent trainer and competes regularly in Agility Competitions. She used to bring her Standard Poodle "Cracker" and her daughter brought another miniature, called "Lola". However Sue is very much in demand and is now busily attending training elsewhere with her own dogs on Wednesday evenings. From time to time, we hope we will be able to invite "guest" trainers. Also we hope to attend training seminars and sessions with the aim of building up our expertise.

If of course, you own a miniature poodle who is well-mannered and you are interested in doing a little informal, fun obedience and a little heelwork to music / freestyle training, please contact Elaine Ward either by telephone: 01903 755062 or by Email: tenco4@ntlworld.com

The Rowland Singers

Formed November 1969



How did it all begin? Well, I suppose it started from having sung in The Royal Choral Society for eight years with the late Sir Malcolm Sargent. He was our conductor and chorus master and a true inspiration to all choristers.

Having moved to Worthing in the summer of 1967 with my first husband, Paul Emery, we soon found that we missed our choral singing so Paul decided to start his own choir. In October 1969 we put an advert in the local press which read, "***Heavenly voices wanted for Earthly Choir***". At our first rehearsal held in our flat above the Mirror Shop in Rowlands Road, six people turned up and we sang rounds and the following week two more arrived including a Mrs. Brenda Raper. At the end of the rehearsal, she turned to me and said "That does it! I'm taking my house off the market and Reg [her husband] and I are not moving to Godalming". We also named the choir that night. "***The Rowland Singers***" were born!

Since those days our membership has increased to about 45. Our repertoire is vast and varied as we sing everything from Oratorio and Religious Music at Easter, Show Medleys and Party Pops, Madrigals and Gilbert & Sullivan in July to Christmas Music and Carols at Christmas.

Our venues have been numerous with us singing in upwards of twenty local churches, beautiful St. Margaret's Church, Lee, London and a Church in Rincon De La Vittoria whilst on tour to the Costa Del Sol. We have sung in local schools, nursing and old people's homes, community centres, Worthing's

Pavilion, Southern Pavilion, Richmond Rooms and the Assembly Hall. Our professional soloists have included Owen Brannigan, Cy Grant, John Boulter, Ossian Ellis, Cyril Smith & Phyllis Sellick, Ian Wallace, Yaltah Menuhin, John Heddle Nash and Philip Challis who became our President on our 10th Anniversary. He was a great support and inspiration to us and often played as soloist until his untimely death in 1995.

Bell Ringers, Concert Bands, Solo Singers, Instrumentalists, Barbershop Choruses, a Dancer and a Scottish Dance Group have also added to the variety at our concerts and last Christmas our soloists were Helen's "***Piano Pupils' Partytime Parade***". Their ages ranged from 7 to 30ish and they were really charming and well received.

We have some very exciting concerts coming up starting with our programme "***Essentially English at Easter***" when we will be singing *Blest Pair of Sirens* (Parry), *With a Voice of Singing* (Martin Shaw), *Ninth Chandos Anthem* (Handel), *Procession of Palms* (Malcolm Williamson), *Feel the Spirit* (John Rutter), *The Last Supper* (Eric Thiman) and *Jubilate Deo* by Karl Jenkins, our only foreign composer (Welsh!). Before you ask me, Handel was born German but became a naturalised Englishman.

(Continued on page 20)

PILOTS NEWS PILOTS NEWS PILOTS NEWS**Ahoy there!**

Pilots have been very busy as usual. Following our Sunday morning service on 26th November we made decorations for the church Christmas tree, on the theme "love came down at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign". We also made the decorations hanging in the windows by the church door. Of course we had a Christmas party with lots of eating! And a few games.

Since the beginning of 2007 we have looked at all we did in 2006 and completed our Log Books for the year. Over the last few weeks we have heard and acted the stories of Joshua and the walls of Jericho and Jonah. Joshua listened to God and followed His instructions and Jonah who didn't, and we all remember what happened to him! We built the walls of Jericho with bricks borrowed from Little Fishes and using various other props, i.e. party blowers instead of ram's horns as they are not too easily come by these days!

The Pilots marched around the walls just as the Israelites did, but over a shorter time scale, made a horrendous noise on the last occasion and then kicked the walls down. Fortunately the walls of the East Hall remained standing!

The story of Jonah inspired Vic to build an amazing "big fish", big enough for the Pilots to get into [one at a time], he made signs and a vine to complete the story. This fantastic fish has been on show in the church during February. .



Jonah and the Whale

By the time you read this we will have had our pancake evening, a week early as it fell during half term and started on our Lent programme. The product of which will be on display in the transept from the end of March, just before Easter — watch that space!

PILOTS NEWS

At the beginning of our Pilots service we asked everyone to write one thing they liked about our church and one thing they disliked. These were collected anonymously and I thought that you would be interested to see the results.

Most comments involved liking the fellowship, friendship and friendly welcome found at GURC, but there was one comment about the dislike of talking before the service. The second most popular set of comments were about music, the enjoyment of singing, hearing the choir, and singing the Lord's prayer.

Others disliked some of the very long songs and some of the old songs, but others liked some of the new songs/modern hymns and would like to have more lively music and singing.

PILOTS NEWS

Several comments were about the enjoyment in seeing children in Church, including Pilots.

An increase in the number of children in church is desired. The chairs also came in for comment, someone would like to see fewer chairs, while someone else finds them very uncomfortable. Long sermons [another dislike] don't help here and sometimes the church is cold.

There were some other comments, a dislike of sameness, stagnation and a lack of flexibility. One person had written "let us be ready for change"

An interesting collection of comments, more favourable than unfavourable, and some that we need to think about.

*Valerie Cooper
Captain*

Fellowship Meetings

Doreen Norris

In the last three months we have been happily entertained in many different ways. I'll do my best to give you all just a taste of what we've enjoyed during that time.

On 21st November we were visited by Brenda Yates of the Cat welfare Trust.

Her talk was, by turns, both moving and laugh-out-loud funny.

You would never believe just how much is involved in finding good homes for stray and/or unwanted cats. As a cat-lover I was fascinated, but the most incredible story was of a couple who had given a home to two cats - quite successfully - until the time came for their lounge to be re-decorated hereupon they asked Brenda if she would take back the two cats , exchanging them for 2 of a different colour as the ones they had did not go with their new décor !!

Coming up to Christmas we were delighted to watch the Little Fishes children perform their Nativity play on 5th December. They are such a joy, and we were their first audience. I don't know who was watching whom the most ! 19th December was the members Christmas get together, and was enjoyed by all. Sketches, poems, carol singing with tea and mince pies to finish. Our usual happy Festive afternoon.



Our Spring '07 session began on 9th January with the postponed visit of the Angmering Hand Bell Ringers who had been due to visit us in the Autumn. I am given to understand that it was an extremely good afternoon.

Unfortunately I was unable to be there on that day but I was told I missed a treat. Hopefully they will be able to come again sometime.

The two most recent Fellowship afternoons concerned animals. Two very different species. Laurie Everet brought some of his pigeons for us to see and Carol Bevan brought her bears - yes! Bears. Brown bears, grizzly bears and Polar bears - but hers luckily were on slides. She is a talented photographer.

Laurie's birds seemed quite happy to be shown off, from the safety of their cages. They were lovely creatures and it was most interesting to learn the finer points of pigeon racing and just how complicated it is and how very committed a "pigeon fancier" must be to his or her hobby. We were quite surprised to find there is quite a lot of racing in the south. It has always seemed a very "North Country" pursuit.

More from the North, but this was Northern Canada, the home of the aforementioned bears. Carol Bevan goes on amazing holidays and has the



pictures to prove it. The brown and grizzly bears can be found - for a few weeks only, once a year, in a certain part of British Columbia, north of Vancouver.

Holiday Chalets have been built on stilts among the rocks and streams for the brave folk like Carol to see these wonderful creatures at close quarters.

Not for the faint-hearted. Even less for the faint-hearted are the Polar Bears at a town

called Churchill in the far north of Manitoba on Hudson Bay. Quite different from the wilderness where the "Browns" live. The Polars come right into town at Churchill which can cause a few problems but the tourists plus cameras are catered for with high-sided reinforced mini-buses in which they ride out to see the mothers and cubs on the Tundra. At both places the pictures of the bear families, feeding, at play, sleeping and having a 'bear-hug' were enchanting.

We all came to the conclusion that Mothers and Babies are the same the world over, Animal or Human ! Where ever Carol Bevan takes her camera it's a case of 'Move over David Attenborough' [or do I mean Simon King].



Grizzly Bear, top
and Polar Bears,
right taken by
Carol Bevan

In Praise of Garlic

"God is good, He gave us garlic!" could be the first line of a hymn of praise extolling the virtues of that most controversially pungent and maligned vegetable/herb, the 'stinking rose' - garlic.

The Japanese word for garlic means "bear insults with patience", but I cannot bear to hear a word against garlic without rushing to its defence.

Garlic has a place in history as a charm against evil, a place in cookery as a vegetable and herb and most importantly as a medicine. Whether or not it is effective against Vampires, I hope I shall never have to discover, but I love it, and so have, and do, millions of other people!

The Israelites were on their way to the Promised Land, at last free from slavery in Egypt. As Mr Rhodes told us in his sermon, it was a massive undertaking to feed and water millions of people together with their animals walking out of Egypt - 'not a hoof was left'.

No doubt the euphoria they felt when they first left the slave drivers and overseers behind soon dissipated as the children got tired and fractious and the animals wanted to stop and graze as soon as they saw a blade of grass. Then the food they had taken with them would not have lasted as long as they had hoped, and they were not walking in lush and fertile

countries all the time, or met with friendliness by the natives. As the wilderness took over, the lean times became leaner; the dry times became drier and both health and spirit suffered. They started to murmur. God sent them manna to sustain them and he made sure there was enough water one way or another. Manna could be fried, baked, or made into bread. It was there every day and kept them healthy enough with the vitamins and minerals it contained, but they were tired of it, they didn't like it, they wanted a change.

The wind and the migration of quails brought them a feast of flesh. They found they were wading through them, there were so many. Oh! Too much of a good thing! They started to murmur and mutter.

"What now?" asked Moses, who himself was getting a bit frazzled.

"We're missing the food we had in Egypt, the fish, the cucumbers, the melons and the leeks and the garlic, but now our soul is dried away and there is nothing at all, beside this manna before our eyes." (Numbers 11:5-6). Some of them thought they would be better going back to their lovely juicy, cooling cucumbers and melons, lovely flavoursome leeks and onions, and, of course, the lovely very flavoursome garlic!

What do I mean, "of course."? The Egyptians fed garlic to the slaves toiling on the building of the pyramids [Israelite and otherwise], to keep

them strong and healthy. The first recorded strike in history was when the slaves downed tools and staged a 'sit in' in protest when their rations of vegetables and garlic failed to appear.

A medical text The Codex Ebers, from 1,500 B.C. speaks about garlic as a remedy for skin diseases, poisoning, heart problems and tumours. Cloves of garlic were found in Tutankamen's tomb.

Hippocrates held that garlic was good for the protection of the skin, and the Greek athletes ate it and pressed the juice to drink before training and competing in the Olympic games.

The Roman Armies had plenty of garlic as they marched and conquered. Their doctors prescribed garlic for all intestinal and chest complaints. Cloves were rubbed on wounds to stop them becoming septic.

Garlic was much used and valued in the Middle Ages at the time of the plagues. It was also planted around rose bushes to make the petals give a stronger perfume. Indeed, roses improve so much in the proximity of the onion family, particularly garlic, that in some countries where they are grown commercially for their perfume, garlic is grown with them.

Culpeper was one important herbalist who recommended garlic for its anti-germ properties and it grew in importance until it became 'The Prince of Herbs' by the Victorians who filled the sickrooms with strong

smelling ointments and lotions. Farm workers have worn a clove of garlic inside their socks to ward off colds for many centuries.

In the First World War, wounds were bound with sphagnum moss soaked in garlic juice as an antibiotic and to prevent infection.

When, in World War II, there was a shortage of penicillin for wounds of Russian soldiers, they requisitioned garlic cloves. A garlic vapour was, and probably still is, used in most of their hospitals as anti-bacterial.

There was a documentary film made in 1980 which was called 'Garlic Is as Good as 10 Mothers.' Since that time, so many tests and so much research has been done, that it would be more like 1,200!

Its healing powers are quite amazing: It lowers cholesterol and thins the blood, which may help prevent high blood pressure, heart disease and stroke. It reduces the risk of stomach and colon cancers and counters infections. It can help to boost immunity and reduce high levels of blood sugar. There is some evidence that it can relieve asthma, also keep individual cells healthy and strong.....

There are many recipes for tasty, inoffensive ways to eat garlic, so please apply to me, garlic's no. 1 fan!

My taste buds are now geared up, the kitchen calls. What shall I make today 'before my soul is dried away'?

Mary Connelly

(Continued from page 13: *The Rowland Singers*)

Our summer concert is entitled "**Songs from US and the U.S.**" so expect some exciting medleys from both sides of the water. We also have an interesting social calendar which is open to all patrons so why not become a patron and you will receive three newsletters a

year with all concert and social dates? If you are interested, the charge is only £5 per person per annum.

Ring Maxine on 01903 603595 and send her a cheque for the appropriate amount payable to the Rowland Singers.

Jacky Emery

Mendelssohn's "Elijah"

Good Friday, 6th April at 7.30pm at the Assembly Hall, Worthing
Worthing Philharmonic Choir Accompanied by the Sinfonia of Arun

with top soloists including Stephan Holmstrom as Elijah, and conducted by Donovan Brown.

Tickets £12, £10, and £2 for children are available from Worthing Box Office 01903 206206 and online at <https://www.theatres.worthing.gov.uk>.

Do come and enjoy the drama and sheer beauty of this well-loved work.

Articles for The CHRONICLE

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

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

Closing date for Summer Chronicle 15 May 2007

The Chronicle on line at 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
Monthly Prayer & Praise	1st & 3rd Thursday Afternoons 3.00pm
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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Please send any contributions towards the Chronicle and mailing cost to her at -

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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

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's Church 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

The new
CHRONICLE

Summer 2007



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 SanctuarySundays

- 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 new CHRONICLE

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Front cover :

One of the coloured glass windows of the Sanctuary. "The apple in the hand of Christ offering redemption from sin"

Read more from page 8

Ron Jordan

We were sorry to hear recently of the death of our friend and member, Ron Jordan. He contributed much to this Church and to the production of The CHRONICLE. For many years he proof read the magazine, trying to spot those obvious and silly mistakes from being printed.

His funeral took place on 24 May.

May the peace and love of God be with Eileen his wife and with Barry his son.

Beryl Richardson has kindly agreed to take on the job of Proof reading.

Articles for The CHRONICLE

Closing date for the next CHRONICLE magazine is the 15 August.

Details can be found on page 20.

www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle



by Rev Andrew Sellwood

I remember back when I was an apprentice, a new lad was sent to the tool stores and told to ask for a long (weight?) That is just what they got, they were told to stand in the corner and wait ... and wait ... and wait, till the penny dropped! Time is such a precious commodity do we waste it or treasure it?

The time has gone so quickly since the last Chronicle, even though now it is quarterly. Speaking to various people recently they have again commented that time in general seems to be going by very quickly, whatever stage of life they are at. We tend to space our year out by marking it with events or fixed points, which seem to merge into each other; perhaps that is what makes it seem to speed up. When at school there are the terms, timetables and exams and in the Christian year we have the various feast days. In reality

time is a constant; it is just our perception that alters.

One of the milestones of the year for many is the annual holiday season. The summer is coming and that is something most of us look forward to, apart from the hay fever, water shortages, wasps, losing at Wimbledon and trying to stay cool.

Whatever we seem to look forward to there can often be a slight let down somewhere along the line. Perhaps if we are fortunate enough to have a holiday abroad we may face delays at the airport, the accommodation may not be up to scratch and we may be stricken with a stomach bug. The things we look forward to also eventually come to an end, that one or two-week precious break over we are back to reality with a bang.

There is a strange dichotomy here.

We don't like time seeming to pass quickly but at the same time we dislike waiting. In scripture there is also a noticeable tension between the passage of time and the instruction to wait. *Acts 1:4*
On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.

Wait in Jerusalem was the commandment to the first disciples prior to Pentecost, an example of waiting on the Lord. In scripture there is also the imperative to be active, no time to lose, be prepared, constantly alert. *Acts 1:7* *He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

When James says in Ch. 5:8 "the coming of the Lord is near" (or at hand) does this mean that James thought that Jesus would return in his lifetime and was wrong? No. It means that Jesus' coming is always, eternally at hand and that his coming back should be closer, nearer, and more real to us than any other event that we have planned for or are waiting for. It is the reality around which we should orient our lives. His coming truly has been near (or at hand) throughout Christian history.

"Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near."

(Revelation 1:3)

Oh no! The Chronicle dead line is up. So friends the bottom line is we must not be clock-watchers but be God watchers. Yours in haste
 Andrew

Yours in His service Andrew

We are sorry to hear of the deaths of the following friends and members of this Church since the last Chronicle was issued :-

Mrs Ailsa Blackwood	11 March
Miss Gwen Flint	1 May
Mrs Pheniah Taylor	9 May
Mr Ron Jordan	13 May
Mr Don Jenkin	23 May

We pray for their families and friends at this time, that God will comfort them, bless them and give them peace.

Jesus said, "Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted".

The Ark



A group for adults with babies and toddlers

Goring United Reformed Church,
Shaftesbury Ave, Goring by Sea, Worthing, West Sussex. BN12 4EA

Leader: Mrs Hilary Redman
Telephone: 01903 260568

E-mail: ark@gurc.org.uk
Website: www.gurc.org.uk

The Ark meets every Thursday morning in School Term time from 9.15 - 11.15 am.

This is a group for anyone with small children in their care. Those with very small babies are welcome, and we would welcome any mum alone at home on maternity leave.

The grown-ups share their experiences, and have plenty of time to chat while the children play.

We have play-do and colouring and sticking; we have musical instruments and we sing and march; we have lots of toys and lots of fun.

Coffee and biscuits available at about 10 am with drinks and biscuits for the children.

Sometimes we have the opportunity to see displays of products for sale, and sometimes we link up with Goring Little Fishes play school, which meets on the same premises. We support the Samaritans Shoe Box Appeal and the Church Christmas Fair.

Interested? then see contact details above, and don't forget to check out the web-site.

Hilary Redman

Fellowship Meetings

- by Doreen Norris

When I read the programme for the Spring Session I did not really know what "Encaustic Art" was. However, on 20th February our members (and some guests) discovered all about it from Sandy Petty who came to show us. She did some really amazing things with sticks of special wax and a miniature electric iron. It was fascinating!

The pictures that were produced were really lovely. Several of us had a go though we realised it takes a long time and a great deal of practice to get to Sandy's level of expertise, but we enjoyed what we did and found the afternoon entertaining.

Over all too soon!



On 6th March we had a visit from Rev Ginny Cassell of STORM MINISTRIES. This is a locally based Christian organisation for young people. I quote "An all age performance Evangelism group and registered charity who have experience of the Performing Arts - song, dance, drama and mime." this they take out into the community by way of Street Theatre, Residential Homes for the elderly and Worship services in churches of all denominations. In fact, wherever they are needed. Ginny told us how she was led into working with youngsters when she came back to Worthing to

live after some years and how STORM came into being to spread the Word of the Lord. It really was a most moving testimony. I can let you have more information should you wish it.

You may well have seen the name BILLY ELLIOTT in the local paper regarding WADARS - Worthing and District Animal Rescue Service. Billy is the Senior Animal Rescue Officer and he came to talk to us on 20th March. As you can imagine he has a great fund of tales to recount and I would need more space than I have to do him justice. WADARS rescues all kinds of animals - wild life and pets - and the rescuers sometimes risk life and limb to do it: like the time a cat was stuck in the little window/niche of at the top of Holy Trinity church Hall, and the Fire Brigade had to be called. Now Billy does not like heights but it was he who had to be belted on to the 'cherry picker' platform and raised up high enough to rescue the cat. The safety harness did not allow him enough reach so he had to be 'unbelted' and firmly held on to by one of the crew - a scary experience, to say the least - for one who does not like heights. By this time it was providing great entertainment for the crowds who had gathered below in Grattwick Road and a great cheer went up when the cat was finally brought down.

Billy can tell a very funny story, especially when it is against himself. We also laughed a lot at the very amusing tale of the swan discovered

WADARS

WORTHING AND DISTRICT ANIMAL RESCUE SERVICE

Registered Charity Number 257843



**HELP US TO
HELP THEM**

marching along Shoreham High Street. One can only assume that, in flight, it mistook the wet shiny road for the river. (What a shock when it landed!) the swan was so busy looking at the crowds looking at him that he did not see Billy in front with his large "bird bag" open at the ready. That was the end of that walk-about! Another swan story was being called

(Continued from previous page)

to pick up a stray bird seen in a garden, also in Shoreham. Yes! it was a swan - but this one was a garden ornament and it was made of concrete!!

Once on a stormy day a call came to rescue a large Amazon Green parrot from a tree in Shelley Road. The caller lived in a flat opposite said tree and was insistent that she could see this bird from her window. All Billy could see however, was a green Marks and Spencer carrier bag caught up in a branch. Result -

no bird - one embarrassed caller.

The Spring Session was brought to a close on 3rd April by Andrew our Minister who joined with us in a Celebration of Easter. We talked and shared memories of all the familiar aspects of Easter. Hot-cross buns, chocolate eggs, rolling them and hunting them as well as eating them! Mainly of course Andrew spoke of the death on the Cross of our Lord and His Resurrection. "He is Risen, He is Risen indeed"

A BIG thank you from Ghana!

You may remember that at the end of February a Coffee morning was held at this Church here in Goring to make it possible for the seven children of the late Joe Amissah, former Church secretary of one of our two friendship churches in Ghana, to continue with their education, i.e. pay their school fees. Much prayer, a lot of preparation, and many willing hands and hearts

came together, and thanks to generous donations - some of which came from members of other Goring churches! - altogether £480 were raised and sent to Ghana. A thank you letter written by Bright, the oldest son of the family, came by return of the post, expressing his mother's and the family's heartfelt gratitude, stating that all the children in their family now can pay their school - and college

fees, and buy pens, paper and books needed for the academic year! The letter from Ghana thanks all the people that gave so generously and finishes with "... most sincere thanks for your help to us. We will never forget it. May God bless you all." I hope to be able to tell you more about the progress the young people are making in a later edition of "The Chronicle".

Monika Leal



The Church Windows

All the symbolic coloured windows in the Sanctuary were made by the Guildford Glass and Metal Works Ltd. who were also responsible for much of the glass work in the Guildford Cathedral which was dedicated for

worship in 1961 — the same year in which this Church was dedicated.

This church building features angled walls on the East and West sides, between the front doors and the transepts.

The windows on the East side of the church symbolising the Life of the Christian are as follows from North to South.

1. **The Egg** - The symbol of Creation.
2. **The Apple and the Serpent** - The symbols of sin.
3. **The Dove** - This symbol was used by early Christians in the catacombs. The position of the bird had various interpretations, usually a symbol of the Holy Spirit but here a symbol of Baptism.
4. **The Apple in the Hand of Christ** - The symbol of the fall of man, but in the Hand of Christ symbolises the redemption from sin. The hand is shown to be the Hand of Christ by the halo with the cross superimposed on it.
5. **The Lamp** - This is the symbol of guidance, knowledge, enlightenment, and immortality.



These walls contain "echelon" windows which reach to the ceiling and draw light in from the South.

They are fourteen feet [4.25m] high, and at the top, each one has a panel filled with flashed ruby or flashed blue glass embossed with a symbolic design. [Flashed glass has been dipped into hot glass to coat the design].

The windows on the West side of the Church symbolise the Life of Christ, and on the East side the life of the Christian.

The rest of the windows are fitted with obscure "Pacific" glass designed to give a clear white light, but reduce the glare from the mid-day sun. This is especially important in the South facing window above the front doors.

The windows on the West side of the church symbolising the Life of Christ are as follows from North to South.

- 6. The Star of Bethlehem** - or The morning star, symbolising the Nativity: "As the morning star heralds the dawn, so Christ's birth heralded the passing of the world from night to day - from the darkness of sin to the light of Salvation."
- 7. The Cross and the Crown of Thorns** - Symbolic of Christ's Passion.
- 8. The Pelican** - She tears open her breast to feed her young with her blood, a symbol of Christ's work of Redemption, Sacrifice and Resurrection. The pelican brings its young to life with its blood. The emblem is often shown above the Crucifixion.
- 9. The Eagle** - The emblem of Ascension, since this bird "... soars heavenward and fixes its gaze on the sun."
- 10. The Circle and the Triangle** - The early Christians used the triangle and the circle as symbols of the Trinity and Eternity.

Coloured illustrations can be seen on the following two pages -

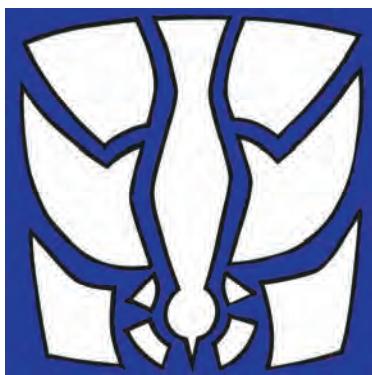


1. The Egg



2. The Apple and the Serpent

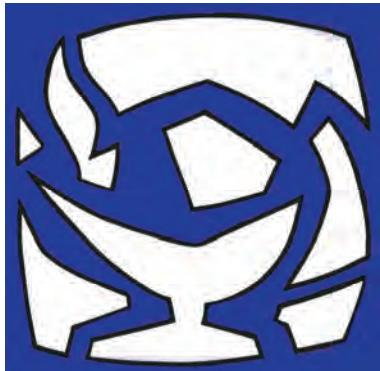
East side
Life of the Christian



3. The Dove



4. The Apple



5. The Lamp



6. The Star of Bethlehem



7. Cross and the Crown of Thorns



8. The Pelican

West side
Life of Christ

Description on pages 8 & 9



9. The Eagle



10. The Circle and the Triangle

United Reformed Church INTER FAITH CONFERENCE

This was a day conference I attended at what used to be Whitefield's Tabernacle, in London, on December 12th 2006

Organised by the United Reformed Church there were 65 at the day.

Aviva Dautch – Jewish – was the first speaker.

She started by telling a Jewish story – two chimney sweeps fall down a chimney, one comes out clean, the other dirty. Which one goes off to wash? The clean one. Why? Because he looks at the dirty one and being a good Jew he thinks he needs to wash. On the other hand, who ever heard of a sweep falling down a chimney and coming out clean! This is Talmudic logic.

She asked, "How public do you make your private faith?"

When at Lancaster College she was 'public', i.e. observed Jewish foods and festivals etc.

If you question everything, is there anything left underneath?

At the Californian college where she also studied she stood out as a British student, though with many other Jews.

At the Massachusetts Jewish College she stood out as a British Jew amongst American Jews.

She was brought up as Orthodox, but seemed to say that she was now Reformed.

Aviva said that 'turning the cheek' was not necessarily a passive act, but it encourages the attacker to strike with the back of his hand, and so see the results of his attack. [and so repent of his action]. Aviva was told this by a Palestinian Christian woman in Israel. [And Andrew, our minister, has explained this to us.]

Isra-El – one who wrestles with God. Jacob wrestled with God, who changed his name to Israel.

She also described Yerushalayim – balancing Peace. Malki-Tzedek (Melchizedek) – King of Justice, he taught Abraham how to bless God.

'Interfaith' assumes that all are faiths, but there should also be dialogue between Religion and Logic.

If I am not for myself who will be? And if I am only for myself who am I? [said by a Rabbi contemporary with Jesus]

Aviva was a first class and excellent speaker, she spoke from a personal point of view.

Dr Musharraf Hussain of the Christian Muslim Forum, from Nottingham, then addressed the conference.

He said we all yearn for peace, but it's too abstract and difficult to attain. Our gathering was peaceful and trustful, with compassion and honesty, kindness etc, and love. These were the attributes necessary for peace amongst humankind. We should also build peace between God and man.

He said ideals are one thing, realities another. Islam is not a new religion, but a continuation of the great religion, starting with Adam who spoke with God. What matters is how God-conscious you are, colour – race etc. are not important.

There are human rights, and Divine rights. We cannot coerce people into religion. God wants diversity; otherwise He would have made everyone the same. Muslims do not have the monopoly on Truth, but they teach equality, and look for commonality. We all have a common base in our belief in God, the Creator. There is, and has been, very much misunderstanding. E.g. colonialism – it may be Christian, but is not 'of Christ'.

He said that manual and spiritual development was very poor in schools. Many head teachers would not want to major on the latter, due to pressure on them for academic studies. There is a great need to improve family life and married life, etc.

Dr Hussain said that friendship does not mean that faith must be watered down, or compromises made.

We bear witness to our faith.

Interfaith dialogue is an obligation.

A very different speaker to the last, but very well spoken, excellent speaker, very friendly and courteous. Not offended at all by some very direct questions in the discussion groups.

Dr David Cornick, General Secretary of U.R.C. spoke thirdly.

He read every word. Talked about peace at Christmas. It did happen during the 1914-18 war etc. Supposedly occurred on both sides of that war. However "hope and history don't rhyme".

Jesus is a reconciler. He brought Jews and Gentiles together.

Imagine Hitler winning the war, and all the top British workers and scientists were taken to Berlin to live and work there, and settle in Germany. And imagine the Archbishop of Canterbury writing to them, telling them to say prayers for Berlin, and Germany and the Germans; and to settle there and be happy. That is what Jeremiah did, and said, to the Hebrews in exile. He was not top of the popularity poll.

Shalom is Peace. Justice and Peace are inseparable. Christians must learn to live with one foot in the Kingdom of God, and one foot in the land of Caesar.

It is incumbent upon all Christians to be peacemakers. Interfaith dialogue is therefore so important.

(Continued on page 14)

Other notes I took during the afternoon discussions

Rational versus irrational is the important thing. Not religion versus non-religion or science. This was the view of the Muslim speaker. Jesus did not preach in the Synagogue.

Muslims believe that only the Prophets of God received the Word from God. They were absolutely perfect in every way. No one else can receive the Word from God. The Prophets were chosen.

The Koran is written in classical Arabic; and the Arabic spoken today is the same with the only difference being newer words for the more recent technological age. Muslims are accustomed to learning the Koran by heart.

Sunni 90% accept an elected leader for all Islam.

Shia 10% only accept a leader in direct descent from Mohammed.

On the matter of dress, the Muslim speaker said that men and women should dress modestly. [But he didn't mind flashy ties!].

I hope these jottings are not too disjointed. It was a very interesting day, but 99% of the group were from the United Reformed Church, and 1% Church of England. I wished there were Jewish and Muslims that we could have discussed with.

Wilfred Rhodes

An Answered Prayer

I asked for strength, and God gave me difficulties to make me strong

I asked for wisdom, and God gave me problems to learn and solve

I asked for prosperity, and God gave me a brain and brawn to work

I asked for courage and God gave me changes to overcome

I asked for love, and God gave me troubled people to help

I asked for favours, and God gave me opportunities

I received nothing I wanted

I received everything I needed

My prayer has been answered

Supplied by Lily Collison



Changes in Church Government

Following decisions made at General Assembly 2006, major changes in the administration of the United Reformed Churches are being put in place this year.

From September 2007 the structure of government will be :-

GENERAL ASSEMBLY + SYNOD + THE LOCAL CHURCH

District Councils will cease to exist; however, to ensure all is well with the local churches, Area Co-ordination Teams [ACT] will be established.

ACT are envisaged as groups of local people supporting each other in Vision Resources and Fellowship. They are to determine their own function and will be advised by Synod officers. Each ACT will embrace about 20 churches.

Synods The structure of the working Synods will also be changed to take account of the dissolution of District Councils in July 2007. Goring United Reformed Church is in the Southern Synod.

There will be 5 ACTS in the Southern Synod -

UNITED CENTRAL AREA, SURREY, WEST KENT, EAST KENT and SUSSEX

Rev Andrew Sellwood and Mr Ian Chalmers were nominated as members for this part of the Sussex Area ACT - Rustington, Sompting, Goring, Worthing and Durrington. The Convenor will be Mr. David Walters.

Alec Ralph
District Rep. Goring United Reformed Church

You can read more about these changes on a paper at the back of the Church.

RUSH! RUSH!

To write this article, I haven't got time,
So maybe we'll have, just a brief rhyme.
For time is going faster you see,
For all of us, both you and me.

Studies show we walk faster to get around town;
Speed is going up, certainly not down.
Unfortunately the same cannot be said of my typing,
But still, it manages to keep up with my thinking!

Something has to give, something has got to go,
If to get through the day, we're to have a show!
Everything is urgent, it must get done,
Come rain, come hail, come wind or sun!

So what to leave out, just for today,
Which of my tasks, can I give away.
This memo is important, that meeting vital,
Everything to do is absolutely essential!

I know! Surely my God wont mind too much,
If I miss Him out this one day, as such,
He has so many people to look after,
Missing me today, wont be a disaster!

Tomorrow I will do much better,
Keep His Word to the letter.
I am sure that He will forgive me,
When my business He does see!

Tomorrow comes and nothing changes,
Having to talk to some strangers.
God, I have to put you aside again,
To meet the challenges set by men.

It's all good works, as you know, my Father,
No time for faith, but will do the other!
Forgive me Lord, as I know you will do,
For my Lord, to me, you are so true.

Busyness continues over the week,
Never to God, now get to speak,
In fact, He goes out of my busy mind,
No, not deliberately, not being unkind.

[To be continued when I have time!] Anon

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CHARITY REGISTRATION NO. 232759



Footsteps

... by Mary Connelly

We never called it "The Drive", it was always "The Path", and it led upwards from the heavy, farm-wide, front gate, and along the side of the bungalow, to come to a stop at the double garage doors. During the war, while father was away from home in the R.A.F, the Ford Popular was immobilized inside on four concrete blocks. The space between the garage and the back door was a hard concrete surface.

There was another narrower path, which curved off the main one near the gate, then ran parallel to it as far as the steps of the front porch with its ferns and geraniums and the rarely used front door. This was called, of course, "The Front Path". I disliked both paths, as I was often given the task of weeding them. The damp Cornish climate ensured weeds grew well through the Cornish granite chippings!

Whichever room we were in – the warm kitchen, with its big, black, cast-iron Cornish Range, which was also used as the living room, or the front room, the 'parlour' - we could hear footsteps of visitors as they came up the path and approached the back door of the bungalow. There was some resonance in the path, which magnified the sound.

Over the years, we became able to identify who the visitor was before we even opened the door, all from hearing the footsteps. There was further identification possible from the style and nature of the visitor's knock – doubles, triples, triples followed by a double, or various computations, including strength and volume.

There being only females in the house - Granny, Mum, and two young girls, myself and my sister Elizabeth, it was a comfort to have some idea who was there before we opened the door, usually to invite them to come in. It could be one of Mum's numerous brothers and sisters, with or without some of their not-quite-so-numerous offspring. It could be someone from the village, perhaps the local carpenter and undertaker, who was a chapel steward, as were my parents. It might be another member of the congregation come to pay their 'seat rent' - an annual payment that ensured they could sit in the same pew year after year. Church members knew their places. Christian charity was severely strained when a visiting stranger sat in YOUR seat! A bit of sulking might go on, anyway, until some Bible reading, words of a hymn, or the message in the sermon brought us back to the Christian equilibrium. Other callers included the bread man, the greengrocer, the order man for the grocer/ironmonger/draper local original departmental store, or the insurance man.

We had a humorous family saying which was often quoted when being offered a slice of cake. It was started by a man, who for years made regular visits, having a special itinerary, which took him

about a month to complete, travelling around the countryside, calling at certain houses where he would not be turned away empty-handed. We never knew his real name. He was 'The Tramp'.

I used to wonder where 'The Tramp' slept, and why he did not have a family and a house to live in, but life was very difficult in those days, and it would not have taken a lot to throw our own security into danger. It was just accepted that 'The Tramp' was the tramp, who needed money and food. We didn't see him as a threat, but as a duty.

We heard the footsteps coming up the path, tired and slow. Gran looked at Mum. "Tis the tramp back again. Been a month."

"Oh dear," said Mum, "I can't give'n money, only somethin' eat." She answered the back door. "We 'abn' go no money. You can 'ave some cake an' a cup o' tea."

The small, expectant smile disappeared from his dirty, whiskered face.

"Aw, Missus," he said, you c'n keep'n. 'Tis the same ev'rywhere! Caake, caake, nawthin' but cake!" Turning, he trudged back down the path, muttering the same five words as he disappeared into the gathering Cornish mist.

From Down Under

There has been a terrible drought in Australia for many months but now gardens can be watered on Wednesday and Sunday mornings between 6.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m. Thus Church attendances have been down on Sunday mornings because people were at home watering their gardens.

However the Guides Thinking Day Service and the World Day of Prayer Service were well attended - it was raining! Extra chairs had to be put in the aisles for both of these Services.

The lady Minister of the Kentish Uniting Reform Church sent greetings to the Minister and congregation of the Church here in Goring.

Joan Burrage

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
2. Via the website - 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 15 August 2007

The Chronicle is on line at 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
Monthly Prayer & Praise	1st & 3rd Thursday Afternoons 3.00pm
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

Publication Team :-

Printing and collating: Ken Woods. Telephone 01903 505177

Proof Reading: Beryl Richardson

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Please send any contributions towards the Chronicle and mailing cost to her at -

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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

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's Church 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

The new
CHRONICLE

Autumn 2007



Eileen Rhodes

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 new CHRONICLE

Vol. 64 - No. 612 Autumn 2007

Front cover :

"Lift high the cross" was played in the City Temple for the Women's World Day of Prayer service celebrating its 75th anniversary. Candles and cloths in the seven colours of the rainbow represent the seven geographical areas around the world.

Photo by Eileen Rhodes

Read more on page 19

Articles for The CHRONICLE

Closing date for the next CHRONICLE magazine is the 15 November.

Details can be found on page 24.

www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle



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We come again to the season of mellow fruitfulness and consider the Harvest. It may be interesting to discover that Harvest services are not part of the traditional church year, and may take place any time during autumn. Farmers have long celebrated the end of the corn harvest with a meal and a party called the 'Harvest Home'. On 1st October 1843, Rev. Robert Hawker held the first Harvest Thanksgiving Service in his Anglican church at Morwenstow in Cornwall.

He wanted people to say 'thank-you' to God for the harvest. Through the Victorian period the Harvest service caught on in towns and cities as a way of reminding those who had left their villages and rural way of life to work in the new expanding industries of their heritage. Today in our modern age the relationship with nature, the seasons and the whole farming process seems to have been eroded. Now people tend not to worry about the harvest coming in but diseases,



by Rev Andrew Sellwood

GM food and intensive farming. Our connections with nature are further severed as produce now is available virtually any time of year from any part of the world. In our part of the world we should also consider the harvest of the sea and remember the work of our fishermen.

If we get back to the Bible for our instruction in respect of harvest we will see the Old Testament teaching looks towards farming, growing and the general stewardship of land for

Israel depended on these things to survive.

Exodus 23:16 (NIV) 16

"Celebrate the Feast of Harvest with the first fruits of the crops you sow in your field. "Celebrate the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in your crops from the field. There is an instruction here to celebrate and give thanks but also to provide for those in need.



Deuteronomy 24:19 [NIV] 19 - When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the alien, the fatherless and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

New Testament teaching, indeed the teaching of Jesus himself is more concerned with the harvest of souls being gathered into the kingdom. Luke 10:2 [NIV] 2. *He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest; therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.*

In the light of Jesus' teachings the harvest becomes more than a token religious festival but a response to Gods grace as we reach out from the church to make a real difference to people's lives. So in our times we tend to send gifts of money or practical items people need rather than baskets of fruit and vegetables. There is also a warning not to gather for ourselves the excesses of the harvest. Haggai 1:6 [NIV] 6 You have

planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it."

Getting things into perspective it is always important to give thanks to God for what we have on a daily basis and share some of that bountiful blessing with those who have little.

Here are some thoughts I came across they do not seem to be attributed to anyone in particular but may be helpful.

"Dig a hole in your garden of thoughts. Into it put all your disillusionments, disappointments, regrets, worries, troubles, doubts and fears and - forget. Cover well with the earth of fruitfulness; water it from the well of contentment. Sow on top again the seeds of hope, courage, strength, patience and love. Then, when the time of gathering comes, may your harvest be a rich and plentiful one."

Yours in His service Andrew

Deaths

We miss our friends who have died recently, and we continue to remember their families and friends in our prayers.

Mr Geoffrey Dean - Monday 28th May

Miss Win Trew - Tuesday 29th May

Mr Sydney Bailey - Monday 23 July

May The Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord make his face to shine on you, and be gracious to you.

May the Lord lift up his countenance on you, and give you peace. Amen

On being an Elder

- by Sheila Gooderham

What is an Elder? The Bible says from 1 Timothy Ch.5 and Titus Ch.1 that we must be men/women who live godly lives and are strong in the faith. I am sure that for most of us we do not see ourselves as having those attributes in great measure. I will admit to being a person with many faults with doubts and a questioning mind [ask Roy!!]. We are not saints, in the 'halo' sense but saints who are disciples of the Lord we try to serve.

I have been a member of this Church for 20 years and have served as an Elder with William Connelly, Peter Heckles and Andrew - three different Ministries and three different types of Church.

In retrospect I can see how the Church has changed. In 1987 there were eighteen Elders mostly men (!) and today there are seven with a healthy mixture of the sexes.

Elders have various duties expected of them. We are Duty Elder on a Sunday, we have the privilege of serving communion, we are part of at least one of the Church groups and we meet once a month at the Elders meeting. We also have a pastoral list of members and non-members for whom we are concerned and for whom we pray and visit.

We have the responsibility of leading the Church, with Andrew, endeavouring to understand the will of God in all the decisions we make before we bring them to the Church Meeting. All the Elders come from different family and work backgrounds and different traditions of churchmanship, but all of us, I am sure, have strong views which the others do not agree with, and this diverse group [like Jesus' disciples] have to work together, with, of course, the help of the Holy Spirit, to see growth in the church and to discover where our future lies.

I have a tray at home on which is written 'God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and wisdom to know the difference.' and as is written in Revelation Ch.2 & 3 we must 'Listen to what the spirit says to the Churches.'

A Tribute to Geoffrey Dean

January 1928 – May 2007



Geoffrey and I became acquainted soon after we became members in 1990.

We both were collectors of books, our shared mutual interests in many areas, especially Biblical teaching and the great variety of translations available today in understanding Scripture.

As time went by our shared interests led us into friendship, Geoffrey was a very sincere Christian, we had times of fellowship together.

He had an impressive knowledge of scripture and we shared concerns together in relation to thought and teaching today.

On returning from Rustington in 2001, I was privileged to join Geoffrey as representative to Churches Together in Worthing [CTW], where his quiet interventions ensured unity of thought expressions in CTW.

Geoffrey retired as a serving elder in 2003, and it was in taking over responsibility for World Church and Mission that I learned of his extensive interests in the mission field, and the needs that should be met.

His meticulous record keeping provided a great resource for forward planning. On visiting him during his time of illness, his nearness to his Lord and Saviour which sustained him day by day was very evident.

His prayerful interest in Church affairs will be greatly missed. I share these thoughts in tribute to the memory of a true servant of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Alec Ralph

St Barnaba's give thanks for the £1015.00 raised in memory of Geoffrey.

Harvest Lunch

SUNDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER

FOLLOWING THE SERVICE ABOUT 12:15pm

£4 per ticket, £16 per family ticket

Some weeks ago the Church Family group did a survey on Bible reading and Bible reading notes. A number of people said that they would like to see a selection of notes that are available, so a variety of notes, web sites and possibly audio CDs will be available to look at and maybe take away.

BOOK THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY.

**TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW DURING COFFEE ON
SUNDAY MORNINGS**

Gift Day 30 September 2007

June Church Meeting has once again approved a Gift Day target of £15,000. A Harvest fellowship meal has been arranged for the same day. - see left hand page.

While our budget includes an offertory target of £42,000 for 2007, and a Gift Day target of £5,991, aimed at balancing our income and expenditure account. Unfortunately projected figures, based on the offertory to June, show that our Gift Day target needs to be raised to £10,600 to achieve the desired balance!

We are continuing to explore improvement options in the Church Halls area, involving re-roofing the Cornwall Room and surrounding areas and, with this in mind, Church Meeting agreed to set the higher target of £15,000, to make further provision for what will be a substantial project.

In addition Property Management are developing plans for improving Health and Safety within our buildings.

We invite you, once again, to embrace this new Gift Day target and to prayerfully consider your response. The figure may be large but we trust the Lord's guidance in arriving at this figure, and more so his prompting of our individual responses. The same target last year, fuelled by your prayerful response, generated a magnificent Gift Day total of £11,810 (plus tax relief of £1,785).

With just over 100 members an average gift of £150 will enable us to achieve the target. If you are a taxpayer and have signed a Gift Aid declaration please ensure that you pay by cheque – this will enable me to reclaim the relevant tax.

Also, please remember to review your weekly giving, if you have not already done so. The more we give week by week the less we need rely on Gift Day giving.

May the Lord bless us all as we respond to the privilege of meeting the needs of his Church here in Goring.

Matthew Smith. Church Treasurer

Property Management

The Property Management Group is the new name for The Fabric Group. Someone not connected to this Church once asked me as chair of this group, "I take it that you look after the curtains etc?" - well yes that's true, we do, but we do a lot besides that. Taking care of the soft furnishings is of course important, but we are responsible for much more :-

- Maintenance of the buildings It is important to be good stewards and to strive to keep our buildings in good condition. This includes both Church and Halls, internal and external walls, ceilings and roofs. Many people will know of the potential problems that we have with our roofs. The pitched roof over the Sanctuary will need to be replaced before very long, although we do not know exactly when, and it will cost many thousands of £s. The flat roofs are of a more immediate concern to us particularly the arrangement of roofs over the Cornwall Room and passage. See more about this below.
- Health and Safety is something that we all have to be concerned with and due to the many new legislations in force today we have had to take action. Public buildings must be maintained to high standards of health & safety. Recently we have been legally required to complete a Fire Risk Assessment - new since October last year. We have had to document ways in which fire risk is minimised - how fire might be detected, warning given, and the means of escape. We have to make sure that all those who use the buildings are aware of the procedures.
 1. PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU READ AND ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE NOTICES NEXT TO EACH OF THE ENTRANCE DOORS.
 2. IF YOU DISCOVER A HAZARD OR A POTENTIAL HAZARD, PLEASE REPORT IT IMMEDIATELY TO ONE OF THE GROUP MEMBERS - SEE BELOW.
 3. Remember that it is the individual's responsibility to do this, not somebody else's !
- Quinquennial surveys The United Reformed Church requires that its buildings are regularly surveyed for potential structural problems, and this is done for us by a company of Architects, John Clarke & Partners. The surveying Architect spends a morning at the church and gives a written report. The report is used as a guide to help us plan, alongside our own findings for the next five years.

- Heating and Lighting

1. The church and hall gas heaters are serviced annually in August by a Corgi registered company, and we normally have this work carried out by Bourke & Cooper Ltd. The invoice this year is expected to be around £650.
2. The power as well as the lighting circuits require testing on a regular basis—every five years. All of the portable appliances [kettles, fans, fires, etc] are checked annually by Messrs Keith Best Electrical and a more frequent visual inspection by ourselves.
3. Remember that If you discover a lose lead or plug or anything else that you believe is not quite right, please let us know.

- Painting, Decorating and Cleaning We are very grateful to the probationers who undertook a considerable amount of painting last year. Whilst we spent about £600-£700 on paint they saved the Church a good number of hours in labour - or cost if we had had to pay a firm. Malcolm Nicholls spends a number of hours per week keeping the premises clean. We regularly inspect the toilets in particular for cleanliness, soap, toilet rolls etc - you may have seen the check sheets in the toilets.
- Refurbishments and Alterations During the last couple of years ramps have been laid to the church and hall entrances: A toilet for the disabled and a new Flower Room have been constructed off the Vestibule. Also we have made re-arrangements to the hall toilets and improved the toilet for the Disabled.

If you have been to recent Church Meetings, you will know about the discussions that we have had about re roofing the Cornwall Room with possible changes to the accommodation below. The flat and glazed roof are a continual cause of trouble - even though we have a pump fitted to the drain, the passageway still floods whenever we have a heavy downpour of rain. It has been proposed that if we decide to replace these roofs with something requiring less maintenance, we could take the opportunity of redesigning the area below. The rooms as they stand are little used in their present condition. The question we ask ourselves is 'could they be better utilised for both church activities and the community if they were redesigned?'. We bear in mind our mission statement that "We are here to worship God and proclaim the love of Jesus Christ to all"

The members of the Property Management Group are : Wilma Smith, Pete Mitchell, Paul Redman, Colin Wilde, Malcolm Nicholls and myself,

Graham Redman

Fellowship Meetings

- by Doreen Norris

During the Summer months the Fellowship meets less often and on a more informal basis - but we did have a most enjoyable outing on the afternoon of 29th May.

It was a ride to Old Barn Garden Centre at Dial Post on the A 24 where we were able to browse and buy, after which we were taken for a cream tea at the Wiston Post. We were all absolutely fascinated by the variety of chickens roaming freely in the garden. I had never seen so many breeds.



The Wiston Post. Photo by Carol Webber

The cream tea was lovely too ! Highly recommended if ever you want a country ride - not too far away, but with an interesting destination, plus tea.

Bobby held her annual Party on 12th June which I am sure was a happy occasion. Unfortunately I could not go.

On 10th July we had our own Cream Tea [with strawberries]. This was another happy event, getting together as we did for fellowship and entertainment by the members as well as the nice food laid on for our benefit.

By the time you read this Chronicle the new session will have started but we would still warmly welcome any new members - ladies or gentlemen. We are a friendly crowd and we desperately need to keep our numbers up in order that the group can be maintained. Do join us?

- and Programme

**Doors open at 2.00pm
Meetings begin at 2.15pm**

11 September	'Old Worthing'	- Ian Hart
25 September	'Partners in Peru' (Christian Aid collection)	- Alan & Elizabeth Crouch
9 October	Wey & Arun Canal	- Roger Wilde
23 October	'Music & Movement'	- Frances Spencer
6 November	Anniversary	
20 November	'Recycling Rubbish'	- Jennifer Hake
4 December	TWG Choir	
18 December	Christmas Celebration	

An invitation -

- for you to design 'something' for the front cover of the Winter Chronicle.

Any subject, but bear in mind that the magazine should be available by the first Sunday in December, so something with a Christmas and/or Winter theme will probably be most appropriate.

Any material, any size, any colour[s], — the choice is yours !

Please let the editor know by early November. Thank you.



PILOT'S NEWS

2007 is the year we celebrated 70 years of Pilots, and all through last term we learnt how Pilots came into being and celebrated that by leading the morning service on July 15th. The story of the missionary John Williams figures greatly in Pilot history, and we learnt about him and his wife Mary and some of the adventures they had on the South Sea Islands.

We played games, made models of boats and of course did plenty of eating. One of the tasks we did was to cook a South Sea Island meal.....what do they eat? Bett and I made up a menu which included things like rice and chicken cooked with some vegetables which are not generally included in our "meat and two veg diet". We topped it off with a range of more exotic fruits. Another task was to create a South Sea Island of our own, but it had to be edible! The Pilots were very creative with mini chocolate muffins, little sausages, Smarties, Shredded Wheat, jelly babies, jelly snakes and candy mice, Twiglets and a few other things besides! And of course we learnt that song! It had been especially written for the anniversary to the tune of "Colours of Day". How we struggled with this each week without any musical accompaniment, - four verses and a chorus ! Many thanks to everyone who came to the service, it sounded so much better!

Also during the term we had a Regional Pilots day held at St. Andrews in Rustington led by Our Regional Officer Ruth Turner, with

games and a treasure hunt in the morning and modelling a Pilot's badge on the beach in the afternoon. Five of our Pilots attended with Janet and me and it was on the way back from the beach that Janet had a fall, resulting in a brake at the top of her arm. This was a blow as she had only just recovered from a broken wrist. Janet is well on the way to recovery now, and these breakages don't stop her from attending the weekly meetings.

The program for next term is under construction. It is a busy term with a Halloween, or Hallelujah party, Guy Fawkes Night is on a Monday this year, and then of course the term ends with Christmas.

I thank the officers for turning up each week and for all their contributions, without them Pilots would not be possible. Sue and Ricky are taking a step back, but will be on call like Grace Ralph should the need arise. Thank-you everyone for praying for Pilots, it is very much appreciated as it helps to give these children the knowledge of Jesus which can be lacking from the school curriculum these days.

The Ark

A group for adults with babies and toddlers



Leader: Mrs Hilary Redman
Telephone: 01903 260568

E-mail: ark@gurc.org.uk
Website: www.gurc.org.uk/ark

The Ark - a group for adults with children in their care, from birth to school age.

As we reflect on the year September 2006 - July 2007, we remember that almost 50 adults with babies have visited the Ark at least once. For some it doesn't 'click', but many become regular attendees and many become our good friends.

We have once again filled our picture board, this time with animals big and small; matching cat with kitten, dog with puppy and so on. This is above many little heads but it helps us focus on story time and singing time, and gives both adults and children a chance to show off their artistic skills!

We have not been able to visit the park this summer, the weather so unpredictable and damp. However we don't need the park in order to have fun. We have had visits from Tiny Shoes, Usborne Books, Phoenix Cards and our own mum who sells "For ever Living" products made from Aloe Vera.

Now and again we have visitors from the church who 'pop in' and are very

welcome especially at coffee time. Come and see what we do, and take the opportunity to chat with our friends and their little ones.

Next term we are going to look at some of the animals that went into the ark with Noah to escape the flood and protect the creatures that God had made. We shall enjoy our regular play activities, stories and singing, and playing instruments with the piano.

We are also starting a new venture for adults whose children have left for nursery school and big school. This will be an opportunity to meet in the Harris Room for informal chat, and coffee without children. A place to maintain friendships and share current problems, find solutions and support one another in a relaxed place.

See you there : Thursday mornings in term time, 09.15 until 11.15 from 13 September.

Hilary Redman

THE KESTRO OUTING

For the uninitiated, KESTRO exists for the benefit of those who have suffered a stroke. Some of our members live alone and often do not escape their homes unless or until someone calls on a Friday afternoon to collect and convey them to the club, so an outing to anywhere is a real treat.

This particular outing was to Houghton Bridge near Amberley. As with the best laid plans of mice and men, not everything went according to plan. The pre-amble starts at our home where Maureen and I are preparing to depart to collect the mini bus from Lancing.

Vic "Where are the keys to the mini bus"? Maureen "You've got them" Vic "No I haven't", Maureen "Yes you have", Vic No I haven't", Maureen "Yes you have they are in the car" Slamming of front door.....and a few minutes later "No they are not, I'll phone Denise." A few more moments and in answer to the question, Denise says authoritatively, "You've got them, I gave you and Jim a set". At this point Maureen says, "I have found them, they were in my other handbag Vic"

"Bye Denise" Vic mumbles something unintelligible on the subject of women and handbags after which we set off.

The only unusual thing about the mini bus is that the spare wheel is placed

behind the drivers seat whereas it is normally in a rack underneath.

I drive the mini bus to collect Gary. He is a larger gentleman known for his sweet tooth. He requires a wheelchair today and the church has provided one. Unfortunately there is very little air in the tyres and pushing Gary in a chair with no air in its tyres is no joke. We get him aboard but I then notice the steering on the mini bus is stiff. I leap out but find no reason for my concerns.

Maureen and I collect the other members including Anita who provides a pretty blue pristine, small foot pump.

By the time we arrive at the church driving and probably riding on the bus is lumpy to say the least. Jim Jacks [Driving Supervisor] says "Need some air in the front nearside tyre" With the assistance of Jim Hope (Pump Maestro) and Jim Jacks we manage to get air into Gary's chair and the minibus wheel, but not before I have managed to knock the rubber foot pedal off Anita's new pump.

We set off for a petrol station in search of air we can measure. Jim [Driving Supervisor] suggests that we use Steeles' garage in Goring Road and that we go via Angmering By-Pass to avoid the supposed road works in Titnore Lane. I drive into the garage forecourt which is packed with cars. This is a mistake me thinks. 'Can anyone see the airline'? I shout in despair. 'Over there' comes an anonymous reply. At the far end I can see a black box and circumnavigating the myriad cars arrive at said box to discover its a vacuum cleaner! Disgruntled I drive off espying the airline in the opposite corner of the forecourt as I drive away

Angmering By-Pass is clear and we clear the motor way in fine style. Off we go but.....traffic lights? road works? Jim doesn't know what names I am calling him 'cos he is driving the perfect mini bus behind me.

We are quickly through the road works and on our merry way. The sun is shining and there is the gentle hum of contented chatter from the passengers behind me. My attempts to entertain them with snippets of agricultural interest largely fall on deaf ears. We arrive at Houghton Bridge.

The much feared (by Supervisor Jim) parking difficulties do not materialise. Another ten minute stint with the foot pumps and we

manage to have the tyre on the bus in good shape. The same cannot be said for the blue foot pump which I have managed to bend out of shape. Much grunting, and arm wrestling and it is returned to something approaching its former self

I seek maestro Jim and ask "Does the other church chair need any air in its tyres". A wry smile appears on his face as he replies " You'll have a job, Its got solid wheels"! Tail between my legs I creep into the restaurant to have my tea and cream scone before Gary sets his eyes on it

Maureen redeems the entire female populations good name by taking photographs of everybody, and they all seem to be enjoying themselves. Much to the amazement of the non Kestro diners we all sang, 'Happy Birthday' to June before wandering outside to enjoy the views across the river and up to the South Downs Way. The swans have deserted us this year but no matter. Was that rain I felt? - and all on the bus.

We arrive at our various destinations safe and sound.

The rain on the journey home did little to detract from another eventful, entertaining excursion, euphemistically entitled 'Kestro Outing'.

Vic Joy

The Church Doors

In the Summer issue of Chronicle, the echelon windows were explained and so in this magazine we are printing illustrations and text explaining what the glazed panels in the swing doors between the Vestibule and Sanctuary are all about . - The Four Evangelists

The text has been taken from 'Notes on the Special Glasswork in the New Church' - Price 6d



The Four Evangelists

The plate glass panels in the doors leading from the vestibule into the Church portray in outline the four evangelists, St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke and St. John in the upper panels and their respective Evangelistic symbols shown in the lower panels.

1. St. Matthew was given the Cherub, or human semblance because he begins his gospel with the human generation of Christ; or, according to others, because in his gospel the human nature of Christ is more insisted on than the divine. In the most ancient mosaics the type is human, not angelic, for the head is that of a man with a beard.

2. St. Mark was the Lion because he has set forth the royal dignity of Christ, or according to a third interpretation the lion was allotted to St. Mark because there was in the Middle Ages a popular belief that the young of the lion was born dead and after three days awakened to vitality by the breath of its sire.....". The revival of the young lion was considered as symbolic of the resurrection, and Mark was commonly called the 'Historian of the Resurrection'.



1. St Matthew



2. St Mark

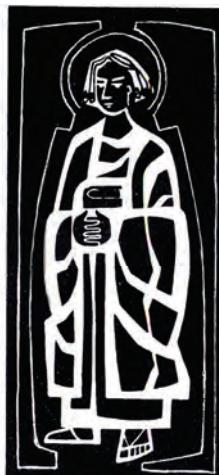


3. St. Luke has the ox because he has dwelt on the priesthood of Christ, the ox being the emblem of sacrifice.

4. St. John has the Eagle, which is the symbol of the highest aspiration, because he soared upwards to the contemplation of the divine nature of the Saviour.



3. St Luke



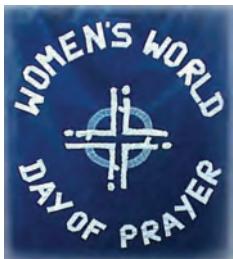
4. St John



These symbols follow the application of the Four Creatures propounded by St., Jerome in his commentary on Ezekiel [Chapter 1 verse 5] which has since his time prevailed universally. They were in their combination held to be symbolic of the Redeemer in the four-fold character then universally assigned to Him, as Man, as King, as High Priest, as God.

The early images of the Evangelical symbol are uniformly represented with wings, for the same reason that wings were given to angels - they were angels, i.e. bringers of good tidings. In the most ancient Christian Churches we find these symbols perpetually recurring.

Women's World Day of Prayer News



This year WWDP have celebrated the 75th anniversary of the first service held in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. There have been three special celebrations in London, Bristol and Leeds and members of the National Committee wrote and led the worship. "Hold Fast in Prayer" was the theme of that first service and this time we chose "Holding Fast in Prayer" as our theme.

It was a really wonderful service, full of prayer and praise to the Lord who has nurtured and guided our prayer movement through the years.

There were music groups and dance groups and video clips from the early years, the war years, the swinging sixties, and the Millennium. The three guest speakers reflected on prayer and each service concluded with John Rutter's "The Lord bless you and keep you" sung beautifully by soloists.

But the highlight of the service was a drama around prayers for the world. Two by two a candle bearer and a reader carrying a piece of cloth processed in; the candle was lit from a central white candle, representing the light separating the day from the night, given to us when God created the universe; and Jesus, the Light of the World, sent to us by God when the world had lost its way.

The reader read a prayer for one of the seven geographical areas around the world and placed her material on a huge cross lying on the platform. The candles and cloths were in the seven colours of the rainbow, and

when all had been attached to the cross it was raised high in the air to display all the colours of the rainbow as the organist played "Lift high the cross". I can't begin to tell you what a moving experience it was! [Picture Front Cover]

I was privileged in being able to take part in all three services and also in a smaller celebration on the Isle of Man, where I was the only committee representative [the other very unfortunately broke her leg shortly before the visit]. The service there was recorded for a praise half hour on Manx Radio.

And now the autumn round of conferences is about to begin in preparation for next March's Day of Prayer from Guyana with the theme "God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding". I shall be taking part in five around the country and will also have a new role on the committee for the next year as one of two vice chairpersons.

Eileen Rhodes

Take a Break Day

As part of the Church's outreach, Wednesday, 8th August was designated Take a Break Day as a get-together for people who live alone, giving them a chance to enjoy a day of fellowship and fun.



Above:

Joan Burrage and
Hanny Webber.

Right:

Joyce Minshaw with
friend Joan Jackson



It was a good, well organised event and the dear ladies who did all the planning and the work are to be heartily congratulated.

The day started, with coffee (of course!) after which we were treated to a fascinating and somewhat different talk. Our speaker was Allison Anderson, a Mental Health Social Worker who is also a Training and Development Officer with the Sussex Partnership N.H.S. Trust. The theme of the talk was Healthy Living - but it was in the form of a quiz - so Allison, very cleverly made us do some of the work ourselves. She asked us questions and we had to write down what we thought were the answers.

These covered all aspects of what we should (or shouldn't) eat and drink. Questions about our "five a day" fruit and vegetables - which foods are rich in Vitamin C — How beneficial is sugar in our diet and many other facts regarding eating for health . Allison is such a knowledgeable lady and made it all so interesting. I'm sure we all gained a great deal from the information she gave us - as well as a determination to improve our lifestyle.

Next on the agenda was lunch. We chatted amongst ourselves whilst the tables were laid and then took our places.

First came soup, followed by quiche and salad all beautifully served. Pudding was fruit crumble and ice-cream. The service from the five ladies was excellent - not forgetting Sue's son Ricky who, as well as setting up the TV. for the film also helped with the washing up- Well done Rick!

After lunch there was a choice of activity. The aforementioned film "The Darling Buds of May" was being shown in the Cornwall Room. In the Hall we could join in a craft group making greetings cards, whilst others could play scrabble or dominos.

The Hall was a veritable hive of industry. After a while when the film was over the greetings cards made and the games completed (with much clapping and cheering of the winners) a very welcome cup of tea appeared to round off what had been a really lovely day.

Heartfelt thanks go to those who made the day possible.
Organisers , cooks, waiters, washers-up and all who helped in any way. Bobby Hitchin, Carol Webber, Susanna Gauntlett, Carole Culliss, Peggy Mott, Sue and Ricky Mitchell.

God bless you all, Doreen Norris

Bridging the Gap

The Life and Witness Committee of the URC are currently collecting stories and experiences of the work of 'evangelists' and examples of initiatives and good practice in evangelism in our local churches which might be a source of inspiration to others.

The following is one such letter printed in "Bridging the Gap" —

" A minister in Reading had a conversation with a newcomer to the church a few weeks after they went to share in Sunday worship. In conversation it came to light that the man was a university lecturer who had searched the area to find an appropriate church. First he began by getting a list from the university of the local churches in the city. It gave only names & addresses with no further details and he was unsure how to decide which one to go to - then he notices that this particular URC had a website which made contact and communication easier. He went to their church website finding out about worship and other activities and went along one Sunday morning. The congregation was large but welcoming and he decided to become involved in other activities in the church straight away. It was only in conversation a few weeks later that the minister found out that the reason the man had decided to come to church was because the church had made it easier to find out about them by having a website which was up to date and informative. This is not explicitly evangelism but shows how easy and effective communication is vital for churches to share about their life and work. "

We too here in Goring have a website - if you have a computer, please look us up, and do make use of it - it is not just for visitors - there are many items of interest to us all. See below for a variety of subject headings included on over 60 web pages.

Worship, Times & Preachers, - Activities, - Church History, - World Church & Mission, - URC Head Office and Synod, - Baptisms, Weddings and Funeral pages, - Hall lettings information, - Ecumenical links CTG & CT4W, - and of course The Chronicle itself past and present. There are also links to other Christian related sites, Communication and Travel, and to sites of Local interest.

www.gurc.org.uk

Carers' Conference at Methold House

This year's Carers' Conference will soon take place at Methold House, when Carers, both family members and professional workers, social workers, health care workers, fund managers, etc. etc. will gather to hear the latest local and national changes in, budgets, practices, grants (or lack of); provision of funds, (or withdrawal of); Health and Social Care restructuring; services – the ones we want, the ones we need, and the few we can get; help with transport and alternative care Carers in the home, particularly family carers, save the government billions of pounds each year. We will be hearing of carers surviving all odds, but however hard one's life seems to be, there are others whose stories would make you weep, and you wonder how they manage to keep going – and often, so do they!

Those of you who have had to look after and care for, physically and emotionally, family members, who could do little for themselves, will understand that when we meet on Carers' days – 'we' being the carers who can get time out, or respite care, which enables us to get away from home – it can be a day of almost non-stop talk. It is evident that there is great relief when one is able to talk to someone else who understands how you are feeling. At times there are tears, at times there is laughter, for as we often say, "If we didn't laugh, we would cry." Some of you may know that I run a 'Creative Writing' group each month. There is a small core of regulars who meet at the table, and are joined from time to time by others who like to read what we have written, or just to find out what we are laughing about. The act of writing stimulated interests and

memories, personal and impersonal, long forgotten, but welcome. More importantly, we found that it was not only stimulating, but relaxing and therapeutic – helpful in all ways! We have poems and articles, stories, descriptions of pets, people and places; hints and tips in and around the house and recipes for quickly prepared meals that can easily be digested; Nature in all its aspects; memories of childhood and growing up, families and friends. Then, too, are described the problems and experiences of caring in illness and bereavement: how each person coped, or didn't cope; feelings, readjustment, and making a new life. All this is helpful to other people as well as to the writer.

We generally do our writing at home in the short time that may be available to us. Those who do not have the confidence to produce a finished piece give me what they have written, and I play at being schoolteacher again and edit and shape it, still retaining the essence and identity of the author.

Many of you will understand the frustrations and difficulties, the stress and exhaustion which has come through 'being there', and like Chicken Licken, have felt that the sky is falling! If you feel that you could help someone going through the same difficulties by writing about your experiences or observations, or any advice on how to improve the daily and long-term quality of life, anything you think may be interesting or useful to others will be welcome. Perhaps you can help lighten their load and lift their spirits. You might even find it is therapeutic for you!

Mary Connolly.



Fun time: The Table Tennis Club meet on Tuesday and Friday mornings

Photo by Carol Webber

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
2. Via the website - 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 Winter Chronicle 15 November 2007

The Chronicle is on line at 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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Proof Reading: Beryl Richardson

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

Please send any contributions towards the Chronicle and mailing cost 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

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's Church 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

The
CHRONICLE

Winter 2007/08



Artwork by Caroline Hibbs

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. 64 - No. 613 Winter 2007/08

Front cover :

STARRY, STARRY NIGHT

These star decorations to hang on the Christmas Tree have been made from left over bits and pieces of fabric, the bits that I would have otherwise thrown away! - a very easy decoration to make. I always put the star at the top of our tree, and it is my favourite of all decorations.

The star is a symbol central to Christmas and the birth of our Lord.

Every time a star sparkles this Christmas give thanks that the Lord is with us.

Caroline Hibbs

Articles for The CHRONICLE

Closing date for the next CHRONICLE magazine is the 15th February.

Details can be found on page 20.

www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle



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What is Christmas?



EPR

by Rev Andrew Sellwood

I recall attending a meeting whilst in Leicester with other church leaders. It was concerned with the local councils ban on a nativity tableau in the town hall square, as it may offend some folk. One of the questions that arose was this, 'why do churches still mark the Christmas festival?' The proposer of the question went on to explain his fellowship did not meet on Christmas day.

Instead they facilitate a Christmas lunch for the homeless.. Their argument was that they did not use the day for their own 'indulgent' celebration but for witness. The parliament in England actually banned celebration of Christmas from 1647-1660 in an effort to free the holiday of what was viewed as its pagan trappings and the excess and corruption. It makes you think.

Lets briefly look at what Christmas is; first some secular definitions of **Christmas** as found on the Web:

- Christmas: a period extending from Dec. 24 to Jan. 6
- Christmas: a Christian holiday celebrating the birth of Christ; a quarter day in England, Wales, and Ireland
- Christmas: financial highlight in many retail trade markets.
- Christmas celebrations often combine the marking of Jesus' birth with various other traditions and customs, many of which were influenced by ancient winter festivals.

For Christians, the Bible is where we obtain our instruction. The historic record of the birth of Christ can be found in **Matthew 1:18-25** and Luke 2:1-20. Unlike any other baby, the one born that night in Bethlehem was unique in all of history. He was not created by a human father and mother. He had a heavenly pre-existence (John 1:1-3, 14). He is God, the Son—Creator of the universe (Philippians 2:5-11). This is why Christmas is called the incarnation, a word that means “in the flesh.” In the birth of Jesus, the eternal, all-powerful and all-knowing Creator came to earth *in the flesh*. But why would God do such a thing? Why would he come as a baby, instead of appearing in power and majesty?

Why make himself a true man and live among us, when he knew full well how terribly he would be treated?

It was LOVE! It was necessary, in order for you and me to be saved!

Today, some argue, Christmas has been inexorably corrupted by the commercialism with which it has come to be associated. For the poor, it may well be a time when, to quote Dickens, *“want is keenly felt.”* Dickens uses this as an argument for practicing charity and *“keeping Christmas in our hearts”* on every day of the year.

Despite the glossy media image of Christmas there are still many places where poverty is felt at Christmas, and where families despair that there is not even money to put a meal on the table let alone give their children a

Christmas gift. Such a thought is sobering when one ponders the Christian message as one of personal sacrifice, kindness to others, and loving our neighbours as ourselves.

Still, many Christians feel that even a Christmas with the overt trappings of commercialisation has a special feeling that can only be attributed to faith. It can be a time to renew one's faith, or merely come closer to the birth of a religion which sustains many. In touching on Christ's message, even small children may begin to understand the sacred nature of Christmas to Christians.

Whatever your views on how we celebrate the season may the Lord bless you and give you peace.

Andrew

Social Events

January - March 2008

- On **12 January 2008** there is to be a New Year Party. No tickets will be issued but you are asked to bring a plate of food when you come.
- On **9 February** there is to be another Quiz Evening from 6.30 - 9.30. Tickets will be available - the price will be determined by the type of refreshment we will have [either fish & chips or nibbles]

Keep an eye on WELCOME during January and February for updates and confirmation.

Sheila Gooderham on behalf of the Social Committee.



By now we are familiar with the 'No smoking' signs which by law have to be displayed in all public buildings. However, two of our members recently visited an ancient church some distance away from here and discovered the rather amusing notice shown below!

No one has smoked on
these premises for
1100 years.
We do not intend
putting up 'No Smoking'
signs now.

Fire Notices

Please ensure that you read the Fire notices, located close to each entrance, and that you know what to do in case of an emergency.

It is your responsibility to do so.

Energy Conservation

In September a firm of Energy Conservation consultants visited our premises to advise us on ways in which we may be able to save on gas and electricity bills. A report was subsequently issued, and recommends many forms of insulation - to the walls, ceilings and lofts, windows, and draught exclusion. The Property Group are in the process of obtaining estimates for this work which will give us an idea of our future expenditure, this is especially important as we investigate the feasibility of alteration to the Cornwall Room area.

We have been advised to raise "Energy awareness" amongst those who use our premises - this will not only help to save on the church heating bills, but will help to conserve energy for the safeguarding of our environment.

Of course we should all adopt this policy in our homes as well. The report states that we should if possible, carry out the work in the following order [cheapest first] - again this applies to our homes as well !

1. Check bills against meter readings
2. Investigate lowering the air temperature by 1°
3. Replace tungsten lamps with energy efficient type
4. Draught proofing
5. Insulate walls and roof
6. Fit double glazing
7. Install Solar heating system

We hope to be in a position early in 2008 to present to January or February Church meeting all of our findings, at the same time reminding ourselves of the proposals that were put to the Church Meeting in May 2007.

Graham Redman. Property Management Group

Message

By now I am sure that many of you will have heard of, or own a copy of 'The Message' - The Bible in contemporary language.

A very dear friend of mine recently gave me a copy as an early Christmas gift and oh how I wish such a version had been available when I was working in Girls' Brigade! I have never found the Bible to be what I call 'a good read'. To me it has always been difficult to understand. Not any longer. I find it quite wonderful that at 76 years old I am rejoicing in a 'good read' and understanding it to boot!

It is 40 years since I became a member of this Church, so I regard this particular Christmas gift as something special and by way of celebrating 40 superb years serving God in this place.

Talking of service and The Message brings me neatly to the 8.00 a.m.

on Sunday mornings. It is for all of us the highlight of our week - joy, friendship and fellowship. We would love to extend these gifts we so enjoy and warmly invite you to come and join us. We would also like you to remember us and uphold us in your prayers. Prayer is a very important part of our fellowship and although we are small in number, we are part of the body of the Church.

Please remember to use the prayer book in the Little Chapel. This forms the basis for our prayers in our fellowship both at 8.00 a.m. and in our own private prayers in our homes.

May we all be blessed with friendship and love this Christmastide,

Jean Webb



PILOT'S NEWS

Since September Pilots have been very busy as usual. Before the half term holiday we spent a number of weeks exploring our senses. We started with our hearing, trying to identify a number of sounds from a C.D. This meant that we had to be very quiet! Not easy! The following week it was our noses that came under attack with a variety of different aromas, all from around the house and garden. Probably the sense of taste was the favourite because that involved eating!

The Pilots themselves made tzatziki and guacamole and we bought in hummus and salsa and ate them all with pitta bread, bread sticks and rice cakes.

The sense of touch came next with interesting things to feel, in bags so they couldn't be seen! Jelly both made and unmade produced some interesting responses! The last sense to explore was that of vision.

Vic brought along his binoculars and we all had a good look out of the East Hall door up the bank to the road and above. There were also a number of photos taken from odd angles and twisted and stretched (computers can come in handy!) to be identified. Each week we thanked God for these gifts that He has given us.

After half term we started with a Hallelujah party, celebrating Jesus bringing light into the world.

We sang a song reminding us that Jesus loves us and then played games including eating doughnuts suspended from a string! The 5th of November was the next Monday, not to be celebrated with fireworks but by hearing the story behind Guy Fawkes Night. Of course this sort of evening just lends itself to jacket potatoes and sausages doesn't it!

Well the run up to Christmas comes next and our last meeting of term will be on Monday 17th December and we invite you all to join us for carols and then try and test your senses with the challenges that the Pilots had over the first few weeks of term.

PILOTS CHALLENGE YOU TO TEST YOUR SENSES ON MONDAY 17TH DECEMBER AT 5:30PM

Of course there will be refreshments!

Pilots on Safari -
Saturday 17th May 2008
Have you seen the posters?
Would you like to be a Pilot for the day?

We are sharing a coach with St. Andrews Pilots to take us to Longleat and there will be a number of empty seats. If you would like to become a Pilot on Safari for the day please speak to myself or any of the Pilot officers, before the end of December.

The cost of entry is reduced for Pilots 3-14 years £11 from £17, and for Pilots and Officers aged 15+ £14 from £21. This includes a few goodies, those who came to Lego Land will remember. The cost of the coach is not included in this price and as yet is unknown, but investigations are underway. It promises to be a good day!

Before we can go Pilots will be fund raising to help us pay for the day, please be on the look out for any of our events.

Valerie Cooper

The Ark



A group for adults with babies and toddlers

Goring United Reformed Church,
Shaftesbury Ave, Goring by Sea, Worthing, West Sussex. BN12 4EA

Leader: Mrs Hilary Redman
Telephone: 01903 260568

E-mail: ark@gurc.org.uk
Website: www.gurc.org.uk

As Christmas approaches we remember a good 2007 in the Ark. More than 60 adults have attended the Ark at least once, with a wonderful assortment of children aged from -0 to 4+ years, and from several different countries.

This term we have 'concentrated' on the theme Noah's Ark, but there has been more chatting than colouring, and concentration when you are less than 4 years old comes a bit hard! The animals come down from the display next term to give way to the Rainbow which followed the great flood.

It had been suggested by some of the mums that they would like to continue to meet together when their children left for school.

So The Ark Xtra was set up. It ran for two weeks - that is until mums discovered that a free Thursday was valuable time for other things !!

The arrangements are all in place ready for others who might like to make use of the resource if and when....

If you would like to know more about the Ark I can do no better than refer you to Joe's article for the Chronicle which you will see on page 9, and come and visit us if you would like to.

We would be unable to work without the support of our church friends. Thank you for your prayers, and please continue to pray for the mums and carers, all the children and those who so willingly give their time to make the Ark a success.

Every blessing, Hilary Redman

Term times

10 January - 3 April
[Half term 21 February]

24 April - 10 July
[Half term 29 May]

The not-so-secret **Ark** diary of Joe Thomas, age one-and-a-half

September 13th – the baby walker I was using collapsed under my weight (must have been the extra biscuits I nicked from the table when no-one was looking) and I bumped my nose. We should sue ...

September 20th - Mummy was quite excited to see a familiar face from earlier years at The Ark, who had popped into the Ark Xtra (for those whose kids are at school now).

September 27th - Alison countersigned my passport application form. Not that I'm planning to go anywhere Mummy reluctantly admitted to being impressed by my sneakiness at coffee time as I managed to transfer my boring biscuit into her hand and steal away her chocolate one !

October 4th – still no sign of new baby Chloe. Shame – I like babies. I was especially looking forward to poking her eyes and nose to show people I know where they are. Went down the slide on my nose. Ouch. Won't be doing that again – well, not on purpose, anyway ...

October 11th – 2 new babies, both from church ! Mia and Chloe, and v. cute too. Mummy was relieved that I didn't try to prod them, but not so pleased when I had a strop about my pencil being taken away – I yelled for ages. She was particularly unimpressed when I threw away the biscuit she had given me to compensate for the confiscated pencil. Takes her biscuits very seriously, does my Mummy

October 18th – I love the time we spend singing and playing instruments. I suppose it's no surprise that the singing is such good quality as we have 2/3 of the church choir here ! It's Hilary's birthday tomorrow, and we celebrated by singing "Happy Birthday" whilst Beryl presented her with a candle in a doughnut.

Half-term

November 1st – We have new toy animals all the way from Barcelona ! A duck and a lion amongst them. The lion looks like it is eating a baby lion, but Mummy assures me that it is just carrying it

November 8th – Couldn't go today, as Mummy had a dental appointment :- I miss my friends, the singing – and especially the biscuits !

- Susie Thomas



Photo by Susie Thomas

Fellowship Meetings

- by Doreen Norris

Ian Hart Funeral Director

Our Autumn session got off to a good start on 11th September when we had a visit from a well-known "local lad" Ian Hart who, in his spare time writes newspaper columns for the Worthing Herald and the Sentinel - sport in the Herald and local chit-chat in the Sentinel. Being born and bred in the town, Ian knows a great deal of Worthing's history but it was an aspect of his "Day Job" that was the theme of his most interesting talk.. Ian has followed in the footsteps of his maternal Grandfather and Great-grandfather in taking on their mantle as a Funeral Director, so was well able to talk to us regarding the history of funerals and burial grounds in the town.

Christian Aid in Peru

Two weeks later Alan and Elizabeth Crouch, Christian Aid reps. from Offington Park Methodist Church, spoke to us about Christian Aid's work in Peru. The newly formed Federation of Women means more work e.g. harvesting asparagus which grows well in their climate, 'Health Houses' provide Doctors and Nurses, and better education allows for more new businesses. However T.B. is rampant, some of it unbeatable. Cities - especially Lima are very heavily polluted.

Elizabeth's parents, Ron and Muriel Hurt used to attend this church. I remember Muriel well, for several years she played the piano for our Girls' Brigade Company. We loved her!

The Wey and Arun Canal



Wey & Arun Canal

Early in October our good friend Roger Wilde came to tell us of his great interest, The Wey and Arun Canal.

→
(Continued on page 11)

Refurbished section of the canal next to the Onslow Arms, Loxwood.



The newly constructed lock just west of the main road, Loxwood

Although really a "Railway Man" at heart who would have preferred to have lived near the Watercress Line, he was quite happy to find the Canal project within easy distance when Shirley and he moved to Ferring four years ago.

So he joined The Wey and Arun Canal Trust - and I don't think he regrets it! Roger showed us some lovely slides which have been taken over the course of the restoration (21 years so far) so we were able to see the before and after and marvel at all the hard work that had been done to clear the overgrown and derelict parts turning them back into a wonderful navigable waterway. Some of the work has had to be done by professional experts but much more has been achieved by enthusiastic amateurs working very hard in a voluntary capacity. We must take our hats off to them! -

Statistics:- The original canal had 23 locks, 35 bridges, 1 aqueduct and 5 workmen's cottages. Sadly the cottages are no longer there but 9 locks, 23 bridges and the aqueduct have been restored - and what is even more amazing - a new lock has been built, to enable the canal to pass under the B2133 at Loxwood. A masterpiece of civil engineering to be sure!

Thank you Roger for sharing your great interest with us. It was fascinating.

Our first meeting in 2008, 8 January 2.00pm for 2.15pm then fortnightly

New Arrivals

We are pleased to announce, and thank God, for the birth of two beautiful baby girls since the last publication of *The Chronicle*. Two new attenders to our Sunday morning worship.

Both with September birthdays.



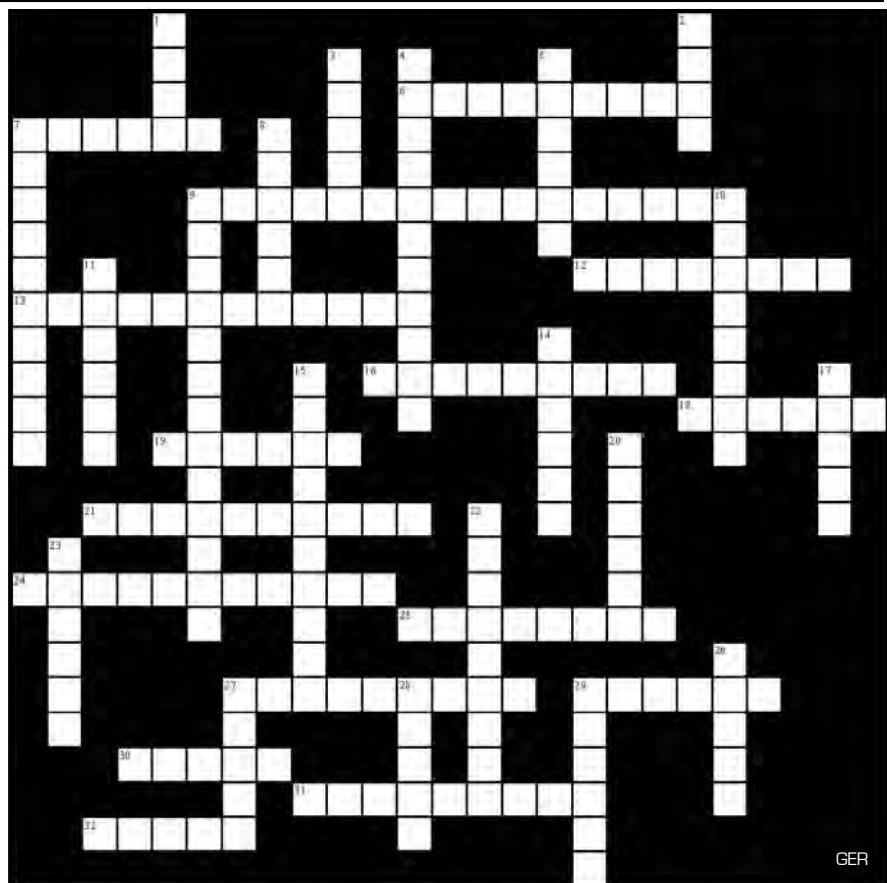
Mia - left, A second daughter for Craig and Lesley Kovacs and a sister for Anya. **Chloe Elizabeth** - right, A daughter for Paul and Mary Redman. Photo taken at The Ark on Thursday 29 November.

**Crossword Puzzle on next page
Clues 26-29 Down**

- | | |
|----|---------------------------------|
| 26 | Make a joyful noise [5] |
| 27 | Borne by the Holly [5] |
| 28 | A place of escape [5] |
| 29 | Not what Christmas is about [6] |

Copies and solution to the puzzle can be found on www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle, also by asking Graham Redman

Christmas Crossword



Across

- 6 He shook his head then had a idea [9]
- 7 A feed trough [6]
- 9 Not an Easter dessert [9,7]
- 12 Nets Reps [8] *Anag*
- 13 Resin [12]
- 16 Not all achieve this status ! [9]
- 18 Transport for Kings [6]
- 19 Decoration [6]
- 21 Stood in David's City [6,4]
- 24 Mariner Poem [5,6] *Anag*
- 25 Birth [8]
- 27 A small town [9]
- 29 Not in the Country sense [6]
- 30 Not a gold gift [5]
- 31 They kept watch [9]
- 32 Prickly [5]

Down

- 1 Came down at Christmas [4]
- 2 She will bear a son [4]
- 3 From far and wide [5]
- 4 What can I give Him [4,2,5]
- 5 1,2,3,4,5 ... [6]
- 7 Mary's song [10]
- 8 Songs for this time of year [6]
- 9 A Norwegian present [9,4]
- 10 They rejoiced with _ _ [5,3]
- 11 Waxy glow [6]
- 14 Sang messages from heaven [6]
- 15 Baptised, but not with water [4,6]
- 17 Not a good person ! [5]
- 20 The time is coming [6]
- 22 Ti Omelets [9] *Anag*
- 23 He saw an angel in a dream [6]

Clues 26-29 Down are on Page 12

Vision4Life

Transforming the church

This is a further phase of the United Reformed Church's Catch the Vision process, a four year process offered for development of each local URC. It is for the self-refreshment of each Church's engagement with the Bible, prayer and evangelism.

It is suggested that we discuss four aspects of the life of the Church,

1. The future of the Church
2. The effectiveness of the Bible in our Church..
3. The role of prayer in the life of the Church.
4. Our preparedness to talk about our faith to each other.

After this we decide whether to commit to a 3 year programme to renew our engagement with the Bible, with prayer and for evangelism.

Andrew should receive more details in February 2008 of how we can participate in this programme over the next 3 years.

The Elders will be looking at this and will keep you informed.

Jane Bond

HOW HAS IT COME ABOUT?

A consultation group on spirituality and evangelism, with members from across the URC's theological spectrum, found a shared excitement about new approaches to the Bible that include the whole people of God in the task of interpretation. We believe every

URC could use these approaches to seek fresh, enabling engagement with the Bible. We can picture whole congregations developing their skills of storytelling, listening and conversation in ways that ought to connect the ancient texts with their current situation and stimulate a new confidence in who we are and what we believe.

An extract from a Vision4Life paper issued by the United Reformed Church

The Windermere Centre Vision 4 Life *Transforming the Church.*

The Programme for 2008 is now out and is pinned to the notice board in the Church Vestibule. Do take time to look at it.

The Windermere Centre is the residential training centre, the centre for rest and recuperation, and the centre for holidays in the Lake District – and much more – for the United Reformed Church. It is a beautiful building in a beautiful setting.

The Director, Lawrence Moore, has drawn up a comprehensive Programme for the whole of 2008.

Anyone may go at any time for rest and recuperation, if there are places. And anyone can join the various courses and discussions and Lakeland Walks. [Perhaps not the Moderators weekend!]

It is a distance from us on the South Coast, but is well worth a visit. If only we could organise a Church Weekend Away there.....

Wilfred Rhodes.

P.S. There is a special fund – the Hannah Fund – to help with the fees for those who might find the costs difficult. I have details.

Dear friends

Christmas is something we celebrate. And there is something to celebrate! At Ordinations and Inductions ministers of the Word and Sacrament are asked, "Do you believe that Jesus Christ, who was born of Mary ... is the gift of God's very Self to the world?" That's what we celebrate at Christmas ... the gift of God's very Self to the world. Those words move me deeply every time I put them to a minister.

The way we celebrate Christmas is, of course, hotly debated. Too secular? Too commercial? Too drawn out? Where we were on holiday in Suffolk, turkey dinner bookings were being taken in August. Certainly it can feel as if Christmas is done *to* us in an unhelpful way, by everyone for whom, to be fair, Q4 is the only part of the year when they make the profit that balances the books. We can easily resist it, resent it, especially those of us who think we know the real reason for the season.

Yet surely Christmas *is* something that is done to us and for us ... and it's something we should do to and for each other. It's done to us in that the birth of Jesus is a vital part of the jig-saw of God's loving purposes.

That mewling infant in Bethlehem is pivotal to God's gracious, it's-not-up-to-you dealing with us. Jesus is God being done to us.

And in essence our celebrating of that is given its authenticity as we do Christmas to one another - making real something of God-with-us in the lives of our families, and perhaps even more importantly in the lives of those who are aching for someone else's love in order to be more fully alive.

The Christmas Day meal at church for people who otherwise would be on their own; the six geese a-laying for a remote village in Africa; the charity Christmas cards; the extra cheque for Cancer research these are all ways - and there are millions of others - of doing Christmas to each other. And each of them proves its truth that love came down at Christmas.

In short, do unto others as you have been done unto.

The Synod officers: Graham Campling, Michael Davies, Ian Flemming, and Sue Henderson and the Synod staff: Des and Hilary Colechin, Simon Harding, Martin Hayward, Catherine Kingdom, Guy Moffett, Jeanette Pollard, Bryan and Rosemary Shirley, Glenys Sibley, Peter Southcombe, Alison West and Nick White, together with Bethan and Jess join me in wishing you all a Christmas marked by the joy of real giving and receiving.

yours sincerely

Nigel Uden

Nigel Uden

Moderator Southern Synod Province
The United Reformed Church

Let's Celebrate!

Oh, how we suffer!

The bombardment starts each year from about mid October, [or is it September?] when we give our first groan. It gradually escalates until it becomes almost unbearable, what they call 'the run up to Christmas'!

Eventually, all the bright, price-reduced, glittering, tasty, rich, gooey, shiny, twinkling, 'spoil yourself' expensive, over-priced, tasteful, showy, extravagant clothes and decorations, whatever, whatever, becomes cheap and commonplace through over-exposure. Ever heard of the word 'tawdry'? Not a word you often hear these days. The dictionary definition is: gaudy and cheap-looking; vulgarly ornamental.

Interestingly, October 17th is the Saint's day of St. Ethelrida, [or in a later version of the name] St. Audrey (died 679), who was Queen of Northumbria and the patron saint of Ely. She built a monastery on the site of the present Ely Cathedral. So what else did she do? She had a fondness for wearing fine silk lace around her neck – a 'necklace'. She died of a throat tumour, which she thought to be a retribution for her excessive liking for necklaces in her youth.

'Tawdry' is a contraction of 'St. Audrey's lace.' 'Tawdry laces', cheap and gaudy laces, were sold at the annual fairs held in her memory.

Other clothes and decorations and

gay and cheap toys were also sold. Because it was generally low quality merchandise, it gave rise to the negative associations of the word tawdry.

Hallowe'en no longer seems to mean *All Hallows Even*, or *All Saints' Day Eve*, but has become devalued.

Christmas is far too precious to allow it to be cheapened to the same extent. I hope that we keep our *Christian* presence prominent and that Christmas is celebrated in its true meaning, without the unbeliever's participation of *Crimbo, Yuletide, Winter Holiday* or such! How Tawdry!

Christians, awake! Salute the happy morn, whereon the Saviour of mankind was born; Rise to adore the mystery of love, which hosts of angels chanted from above; With them the joyful tidings first begun of God incarnate and the virgin's son.

O may we keep and ponder in our mind God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind; Trace we the Babe, who hath retrieved our loss from His poor manger to His bitter cross; Tread in His steps, assisted by His grace, 'til man's first heavenly state again takes place. John Byrom, 1692-1763.

Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year – or is it Happy Holidays? (There's another word – Holy Days!)

Mary Connolly

Christmas in Ghana

described in a letter by Bright, son of the late Joe K. Amissah

Christmas in Ghana is a time of joy and happiness. It is the time of the year, when people travel back to the towns and villages where they were born to see their families. The ties with the loved ones are renewed and if any family disputes have developed in the course of the year, they are being settled now. In preparation for this special time of the year, the whole country becomes very busy! Everybody wants to work very hard to earn much money to be able to celebrate. For children celebrating means eating their favourite meals and getting new clothes! For parents this means working very hard to be able to buy their children new dresses, trousers and shoes. When people are tired from too much work they sometimes have accidents, and so Christmas does not always bring happiness alone to some families.

On the 24th of December the festive time begins and all the Christians go to church to enjoy a special evening called "Chorus Night". For this occasion my father always made sure that each of us seven children went to church. Now that he is no more, my mother sees to this.

On the 25th of December it is Christmas Day! My mother wakes up early to do all the household chores. She makes sure that we do not leave for church late, because lots of people come to the service on that day and to get a better place to sit in the church, we have to be early. All of us children play our part in this making sure that we arrive at church as early as possible!

This is also the day for people to eat their favourite meals and to wear their new clothes. In my family, we normally eat lots of rice and chicken and we drink some mineral drinks. After that we take a family picture. Somewhen after the church service the children, still in their new dresses and trousers, visit their relatives to collect their Christmas presents. The adults often go out with their friends and sometimes attend beach parties or take part in other activities in town. In my hometown, the churches normally organise inter-churches games and competitions on Christmas Day. This brings much happiness and joy to the people.

On the 26th of December, Boxing Day, people still go to see their relatives, exchange gifts and have parties. There are also graduation ceremonies organised on this day.

Christmas in Ghana is the season of happiness and joy! It means going to church, being together with your loved ones, and for the children, getting new clothes and eating their favourite meals!

Special wishes to all the Church family from Ghana:

May Christmas be a time of blessings and may the New Year bring peace, health and happiness to you all!

*With warm greetings, Agnes Amissah, Bright, and all the family
also from Rev. Samuel Nkrumah and wife Mercy .and all the family*

Joe K. Amissah

For many years Joe K. Amissah was the Church Secretary of one of our two partner churches in Ghana and as such wrote many letters to this Church in Goring. When he died unexpectedly in March 2006, leaving a wife and seven children behind, the prayers and financial support of this Church and Christians Together in Goring helped the family and made it possible for the children to continue their education.

Monika Leal



Christmas Fair: 1 December

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
2. Via the website - 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 Spring Chronicle 15 February 2008

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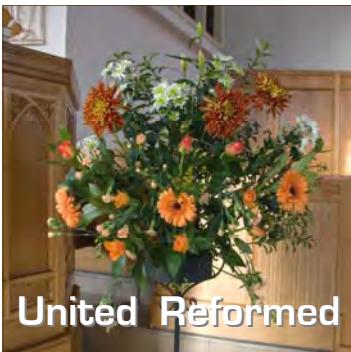
The Chronicle costs approximately 75p each to produce. Whilst no charge is made for the magazine, the Church would be very grateful for any donations given to help towards its cost of production. There is a box provided for such purpose at the back of the church, or contributions may be made by post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

The CHRONICLE

www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle

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's Church 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