

The CHRONICLE ARCHIVES

Spring, Summer, Autumn & Winter 2011
Volume 68

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

The CHRONICLE

Spring 2011



Easter Sunday 24 April

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

GORING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

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

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

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Worship in the Church Sanctuary

Sundays

- 8.00am Prayer & Praise - with Holy Communion on first Sunday in month.
- 10.30am Morning Worship - with Holy Communion on first Sunday in month.
- Family service monthly as announced
- Junior Church with Crèche
- 6.00pm Evening Worship - with Holy Communion on third Sunday in month

Mid-week

- 10.30am Bible Study on first Thursday in month

The CHRONICLE

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Spring 2011

Easter Services:

Maundy Thursday 22 April: 7.30pm

Good Friday 23 April: 10.30am

Easter Sunday 25 April:

8.00am, 10.30am & 6.00pm.

Articles for *The* CHRONICLE

Closing date for the next CHRONICLE magazine is the 1 May

www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle



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Our Minister, Rev Andrew Sellwood was on holiday at the time this magazine was being produced early in February.

However, for this Chronicle I have taken an article written for our sister church — St Andrew's in Rustington.

Graham Redman

February 14th

Right in the middle of the month of February is a very well known day for celebration, Valentine's Day.

The greetings card producers get a chance to improve on their Christmas business. The shop windows are bedecked with red hearts and cute chubby cherubs wielding bows and arrows. Flower sales go up dramatically, too, especially due to the demand for red roses. But what is it all about? Not surprisingly, it is the day when more wedding proposals are made. Why this sudden interest in being romantic on one particular day? Who was Valentine?

There were many martyrs of the Church named Valentine. I counted at least seven. They were from all parts of the world and were killed in different ways for different reasons. They have all been the basis of particular traditions within the Church. Our Saint was most likely a first century bishop who went

against the harsh laws of the state at that time and secretly married couples (the emperor actually outlawed all marriages). When Claudius found out, he had Valentine arrested and ordered to be put to death. While waiting in jail, Valentine began exchanging letters with the jailer's daughter and soon had fallen in love with her. The day he was to be beheaded, he wrote her one last note and signed it 'From Your Valentine'. He was buried at the side of the Via Flaminia in Rome on February 14th. Such is the legend. Records show his saint's day was first celebrated in 496 A.D. replacing the pagan Lupercian fertility festival.

Maybe there were many St. Valentines. One thing, however, remains as a common denominator, that was their faith in God. They are set before us as examples of those not afraid to count the cost for their belief. They suffered for love, the love of God.

It fascinates me how many legends and stories there are in our Christian history and heritage. It seems we need to hold up individuals from history as examples of how we are to live out our faith lives.

The author of the Letter to the Hebrews talks about men and women of faith as being important role models for us. For example, Noah was a man of faith and his life continually showed his faith. Despite the ridicule of those around him, he was obedient to God and built the Ark. God blessed his faithful service by delivering him and his family from judgement. Noah worshipped God faithfully as Abel had done before him, and throughout his own life he worked faithfully for God.

I suppose the main characteristic of Valentine's Day is romantic love, grand gestures and big bunches of flowers and boxes of chocolates. That's OK, but it shouldn't be confused with the kind of love Jesus was all about. We have a problem with our English language in understanding fully the kind of love communicated by the New Testament. In the original Greek there were at least four words for love, all expressing a different aspect. Jesus' love agape is unconditional and sacrificial - see John 15:13: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." Jesus is the only example we need.

Andrew.

Fellowship Meetings

The session started with a New Year tea party where we had a few games and a lovely tea. I enjoyed that afternoon. We had a game of Bingo and smart one here decided that she has cracked looking for the numbers and I was expecting to win. However this group are far cleverer than me and another lady won. So that showed me. Seriously it was a good afternoon. Next we had a visit from Runata Shave who told us about her life in the war when her family fled from the Russians. It was quite sad really She travelled from East Germany to West Germany and then settled here in Goring and indeed she worships here with us .

Next we had a visit from Mr. John Penney who spoke about Arundel Castle gardens. He brought some Photos so we could see the lovely buildings and gardens. Well that's it for now. *Janet Dean*

Rev Nicola Furley-Smith

New Moderator for the Southern Synod

She writes:-

Here are some simple facts about me; I'm a North Londoner by birth having grown up in Hendon and Mill Hill although I have been warmly welcomed south of the river.

I was the perpetual student managing 8 years of continual further education having been to King's College, London to do a BA in Religious Studies followed by a PGCE with a view to teaching RS, then off to Northern College, Manchester to train for the ministry where I did a BD. I also gained an MA in Christian Theology along the way.

I have always ministered to local congregations: Haresfinch and Peasley Cross - URC's, St. Helens; Stainbeck URC, Leeds; Oxted URC, Surrey and I am at present minister at Walling+on URC where I've happily been for the last 11 years.

I have worked in the wider church. Amongst other things I've been Convener of Doctrine and Worship Committee in Yorkshire Synod; Provincial Children's Advocate (with

Russell) in Southern Synod; Convener of Southern Synod's Synod Council; Convener of URC Prayer Handbook; Southern Synod Representative on the URC Mission Committee.

When I first got married I worked at Church House in the Communications

Department printing the Basis of Union on the Risograph.

I'm married to Russell, URC minister at Purley, whom I first met at Northern College, and we have two children: Cameron (12) and Ross (9). All three keep me on my toes.

I've ministered in Southern Synod since I got married 14 years ago. To relax I play the piano, clarinet and flute (although not at the same time!), build Lego, watch Stargate SG1. paint and draw.

I'm really looking forward to the challenge of a new role in Southern Synod working with old friends and making new ones as Southern Synod moves into the new phase of its life.

Nicola

The induction of the new Southern Synod Moderator,

Rev Nicola Furley-Smith

Purley URC, 906 Brighton Road, Purley CR8 2LN,

Saturday 5th March at 2:30pm.

The Good Old Days

I remember, though forty years have passed
The ninety year old Methodist was upright and stiff-backed
A flower button-hole he wore, in his smart dark suit
And he spoke of the social changes seen from his first roots,

He was, he said, to Scapa Flow by the Admiralty directed
As chaplain to the Fleet, the very first Methodist selected
And of his later missionary work in the bright West Indies
Of azure skies and brilliant seas - and widespread poverty I

He said how as a child with his parents he did go
To the local workhouse with comforts for the poor,
He told of separated families and a lack of dignity
Then remarked with some asperity, do not ever to me say
That false, misleading, time-worn phrase, - The Good Old Days!

Gordon Brinton

Easter Concert

by the Rowland Singers

The Easter Concert given by the Rowland Singers in this Church will be held on Wednesday 6th April 2011 at 7.30pm

The works they will be singing are :

Te Deum by Haydn;

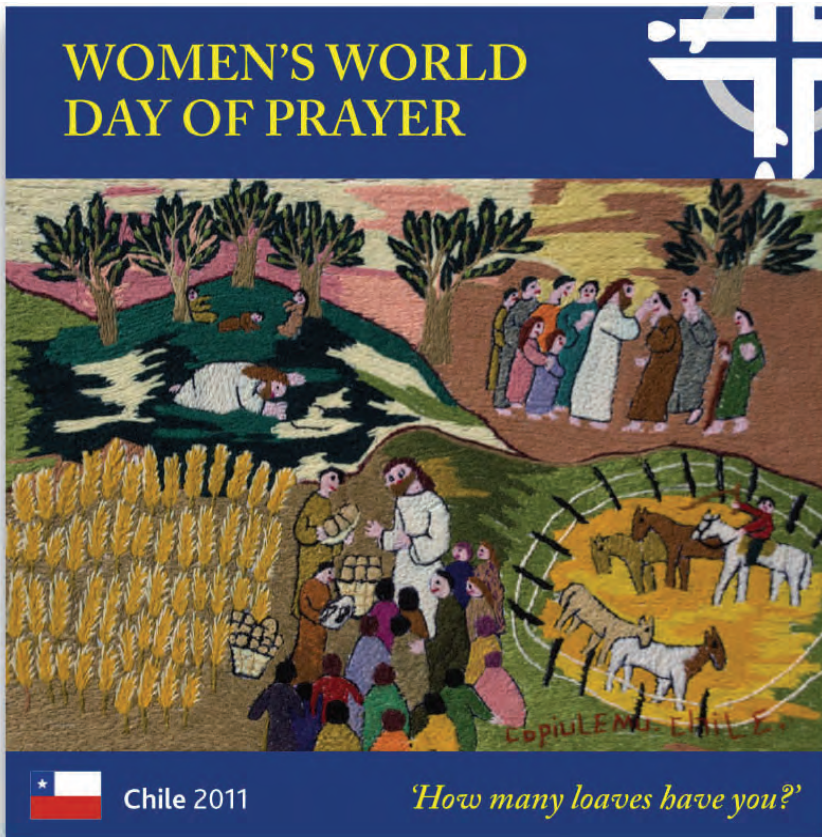
Gloria by Poulenc;

Magnificat by Ratter together with some short pieces.

The Soloist is Julie Le Manuals - Soprano; Organist is Philip Adams and the Conductor for the first time in our church is Helen Emery.

The tickets are priced at £8.00 for adults Child £2.00 and can be obtained from Margaret Butcher, Roy & Sheila Gooderham or telephone W. 238792. We hope to see you there.

Sheila Gooderham



WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Friday, 4th March

'HOW MANY LOAVES HAVE YOU?'

On Friday 4th March 2011 women from around the world will celebrate the Women's World Day of Prayer. The service has been written by the women of Chile, a country that has been in the news this last year, firstly following an earthquake and then with the account of the miraculous rescue of the Chilean miners.

Stretching from Peru to Antarctica, The Republic of Chile occupies a long, narrow strip of land 2,640 miles long and 110 miles wide. It is a land of incredible contrasts. It also has the highest incidence of domestic violence in Latin America and most women suffer from discrimination in some form or another. Equal opportunities are being pursued.

This year's theme 'HOW MANY LOAVES HAVE YOU?' is appropriate for bread is eaten at every meal and is very much part of every day life. The women of Chile offer what it means to them as they share this service with us. Although organised and led by women, this is essentially a day of prayer for everyone as we demonstrate our solidarity with our sisters and brothers in other countries and all are welcome to attend.

Services in this area are as follows:

Friday, 4th March:

2.30pm Bury Drive Methodist Church

Speaker: Deacon Joan Cole

7.30pm (new time) St. Andrew's Church, Tarring

Speaker: Mrs. Brenda McCredie

Saturday, 5th March

10.00am 'Coffee and Cake Morning' at

Bury Drive Methodist Church

Further information from Eileen Rhodes,
Tel: 248263 or <http://wwdp-natcomm.org>

Our cover picture on the Order of Service is from an embroidery designed by Chilean Norma Ulloa. Her idea focused around prayer and bread. She said of her work: "The upper part depicts Christ praying and healing. The lower part is related to bread; the wheat, Christ multiplying the loaves and the fish and the threshing with mares, a rural motif common in village life". Sadly Norma died of heart failure shortly after the earthquake in Chile in February 2010.

WATCH THIS SPACE!

We are very privileged that the AUTUMN PREPARATION DAY for West Sussex will be held in our church on WEDNESDAY, 19th OCTOBER. Please put the date in your diaries - this will be a great day.

Eileen Rhodes



*Photo by Jeremy Woodham/Church Mission Society
Reproduced with permission www.cms-uk.org*

Chilean miners' miracle: the inside story

The ordeal of the Chilean miners' trapped for 69 days beneath the Atacama Desert and their subsequent miraculous rescue was a day-by-day gripping story in the autumn of 2010. The Reverend Alf Cooper, CMS mission partner and protestant chaplain to Chile's president led the country's prayers for the miners as the search and rescue played out in real time across the world's media.

Jose Henriquez, the miners' main spiritual leader (they now call him pastor) said that when the mine collapsed and the miners panicked, God spoke to him that they would survive. He called them together and got them praying. They all received a sense of peace, but then despaired as they heard the drilling operations bypass them. Still they prayed. Finally the drill struck a rock, was deviated and hit their chamber.

Five of the 33 miners descended with a close relationship with God, but 22 received Christ whilst trapped underground. Alf said: "We believe this is a miracle that will speak to the world of the love of God. The president himself has given God the glory continually. The one or two attempts at cynicism from the press have crumbled rapidly before the gigantic testimony of the miners who say that Jesus was the 34th man down there with them".

Pictured here are (from the left) Blanca and Jose Henriquez and Revd. Alf Cooper at an interview during their tour of England in January 2011.

Eileen Rhodes

Bible Crossword - The Sermon on the Mount

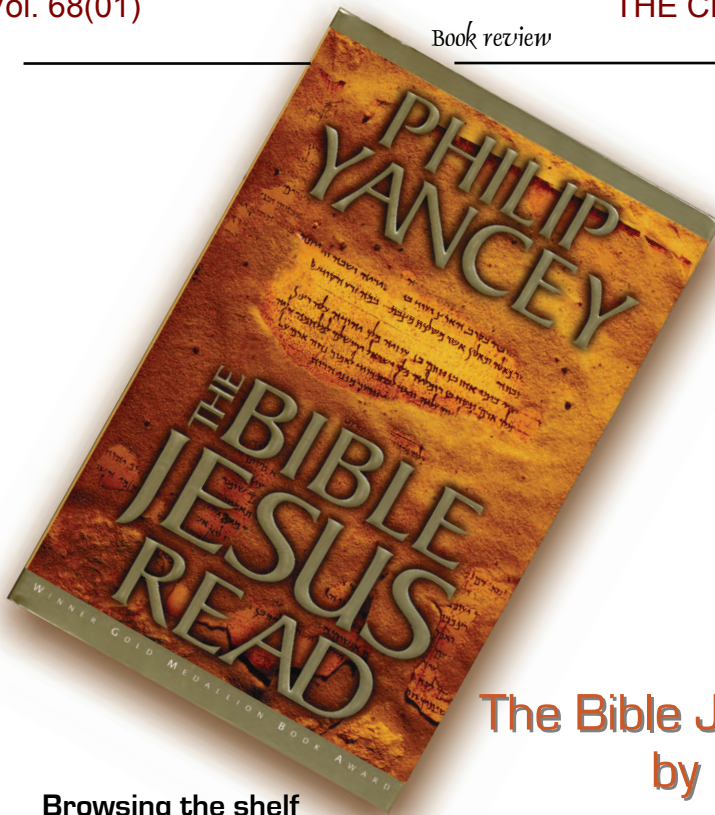
A crossword, **on page 16**, is based on the Sermon on the Mount. This crossword uses the King James Version of the Bible.

Across

- 1 Not to be put under a bushel. [6]
- 3 Let yours shine before men! [5]
- 7 Moth and rust will do this to your earthly store. [7]
- 8 If you do this, you will find. [4]
- 10 These should not be done in view of men. [4]
- 13 The eight sayings by Christ at the beginning of his sermon. [10]
- 15 They sound trumpets in the streets when they are being charitable. [10]
- 18 The peacemakers will be called this. [8,2,3]
- 20 They were with Jesus when he gave the sermon. [9]
- 22 You can't serve God and this. [6]
- 23 Fellow believers. [8]
- 24 The earth is this to God. [9]

Down

- 2 Jesus gave this as example of how to communicate with God. [5,6]
- 4 Don't lay these upon the earth. [9]
- 5 Whoever says this to his brother shall be in danger of the council. [4]
- 6 Those who are given happiness and good fortune. [7]
- 9 When engaging in this, you should enter into your closet and shut the door. [6]
- 11 Where the sermon was given. [8]
- 12 You should search for this first, before worrying about food and clothing. [13]
- 14 What you should do to your eye if it offends. [5]
- 16 They which do this shall be filled. [6]
- 17 The hypocrites disfigured their faces while doing this. [7]
- 19 If you are forced to go a mile with someone, this is how far you should go. [5]
- 21 The foolish man built his house on this. [4]



The Bible Jesus Read by Philip Yang

**Browsing the shelf
full of 'books to borrow'**

in East Croydon URC's lounge, I came across this little book.

Did I want to read about the Old Testament? The chapter headings didn't really inspire me, but I thought it would do me good!

My eye was attracted by it's striking cover - gold with raised letters, and an indented picture of a piece of parchment, and I began to think maybe this is just what I need in my quest to better understand the Old Testament.

I logged the book out, and set off to catch my train and have a read on my way home. To my delight the journey fled by. The book so readable, and not at all what I had expected. Philip Yancey has a easy style and begins with the same sort of approach to the Old Testament as many present day Christians. In other words many of us may think that the Old Testament has little to do with our Christian way of living. He goes on to prove that this is a complete misunderstanding. On the back cover we read "The Old Testament is God's biography, the story of his passionate encounters with people. It is also a prequel to the story of Jesus, who came to answer the questions that troubled the ancient writers and still trouble us today."

This is the “The Bible Jesus read, used and loved.”

The first chapter answers the question “Is the Old Testament worth the Effort?” Then the book moves on to discover the truths behind the book of Job. What does this book offer us by way of trying to understand why God permits, even encourages, tests of faith, and why He allows bad things to happen to a good man.

Next comes a chapter entitled “Deuteronomy: A Taste of Bittersweet”

I thought I would find this hard, but no, here is a wonderful insight into Moses, and the life he led. We begin in the bull rushes of the river Nile and end on the brink of the promised land. Moses became a real man for me in this chapter. I came to know him better and felt with him the arduous of the wilderness, the waywardness of the people he had to lead, and the bitter disappointment he felt as he was denied entry into the Promised Land.

Next we are taken to the land of song and prayer in “Psalms: Spirituality in every Key”. How well do we understand these gifts of words? Mr Yancey admits to finding the psalms difficult and contrary at first. However by diligence he has worked at their meaning and their place in the old Testament. He says they are a series of prayers to God, reflecting all of our human nature. The psalmist is not afraid to speak out in his prayers, to question God, to

be angry even, and to ask for answers as well as to sing God’s praises loud and clear.

The next chapter is “Ecclesiastes: the End of Wisdom. I am still reading this chapter, but I have no doubt that it will capture my attention just all the previous pages have done. I have still to read “The Prophets: God Talks Back” and “Advance Echoes of a Final Answer.”

I may not finish before the date due back to East Croydon URC Library, so I have bought my own copy.

Will I lend you this book? Definitely, as long as you promise to give it back to me !!

Since I have been reading Philip Yancey I have heard others speak highly of his work, and some who have recommended further reading for me, especially “What’s So Amazing About Grace.” He is a journalist and a t present editor-at-large for Christianity Today magazine, but he has also written for Reader’s Digest, Saturday Evening Post, and National Wildlife. A journalist who has encountered all kinds of people and situations good and bad. He is man who writes as he works out the tangles of belief and sorts out his personal relationship with God.

He has certainly captivated me by his writing, and I shall read more of his work. If you own one of his books and would be prepared to lend it to me I would be delighted!

Hilary Redman

Money Matters! a dozen common questions ...

Q. 1 *What happens to the money that I put into the collection bag on Sunday?*

All of the offertory, made up of loose cash, money given in 'Free-will' envelopes and money paid direct by standing order, presently goes to URC headquarters (to the 'Maintenance of the Ministry Fund' or 'MoM', to pay for Ministers' salaries, administration costs, and Mission and Outreach).

Any balance of our 'MoM' allocation, and all other work and projects within our own premises has to be funded by other means.

In other words if there is not enough money in the weekly offertory to cover our MoM contribution then we must top it up from our reserves.

If there is a surplus in the weekly offertory we may use this for the maintenance of our buildings, but if there is no surplus we must fund the maintenance of our buildings either from our reserves, or from our receipts for rent, or from income from our now much reduced investments or by special fund-raising efforts.

Q. 2 *Does the Church bear a financial responsibility for me?*

Yes. Refer again to Q 1 ~ For each church member the Church's headquarters expects to receive almost £10.00 per week from us. This is the money required of each Church to fund the Ministers' salaries and to administrate the Church at a national level. We look to our weekly offerings to cover these costs, it is known as 'The Maintenance of the Ministry Fund',

Q. 3 *Can I or Should I use 'Free Will' offertory envelopes?*

Anyone who attends our church regularly can use 'Free Will' envelopes. By using this scheme for your offertory the treasurer knows how much money will be coming in each week. It enables the giver to promise a regular amount even on the Sundays that they are absent. For more details see the treasurer, Matthew Smith.

Q. 4 *Are there other ways in which I can give my money?*

You can make direct payment through your bank account by standing order. Please speak to Matthew Smith, who will be happy to provide you with our Bank details to enable you to set up an arrangement. Some members also make payment by Charities Aid Foundation cheques.

Q. 5 *What happens to the money that is raised at the Church Gift Day?*

Each year the Church meeting decides how to use this money in an appropriate way. It may go towards the deficit we have as a result of reduced income, but it might also be used for charitable purposes or a special project.

Q. 6 *What does 'Gift Aid' mean?*

A If you are a taxpayer, the Church can obtain a tax repayment of 25p for every £1 you give. Last year we were able to claim back a total of £7,818 from the Government. For more details on this subject speak to the treasurer, Matthew Smith. Unfortunately the Government has reduced the amount of Gift Aid, which can be claimed, from the previous level of 28p per £1, from 6 April 2011. We will need to find other means of making good the shortfall.

Q. 7 *Where can I read in scripture, the relevant passages to help me understand my responsibilities*

2 Corinthians Chapters 8 and 9, (esp. Ch. 9 v 7 and 8) and there are others to which you may refer.

Q. 8 *What is Tithing?*

Over the centuries Church Members have been asked to contribute 10% of their income to the Church. The Bible has teaching on this aspect of our giving.

Q. 9 *What happens to the money that I put into the retiring collection plate after the service of Holy Communion?*

This money is put to one side to enable the Church to help people who are experiencing great difficulty or crisis.

Q. 10 *I have heard that we give 10% of our Church income to Mission work ~ 10% of what income?*

We give away 10% of the money collected as offertory at Sunday's services, and 10% of the money we receive from renting out our premises.

Q.11 *I give as much as I can, why do people think that I should give more?*

It is not for anyone to judge how much an individual should give, that is between you and the Lord, however it is the responsibility of the Church leaders to encourage people to review their giving from time to time.

Q.12 *I still have questions unanswered, to whom should I speak?*

Speak to the Minister, the Church Treasurer, Mr Matthew Smith or to any member of the Finance Group whose names appear in the Church Handbook.

A Death in the Family

The Church was packed to the doors for the service. Members of the family who had heard of the death in time to make the journey, came from near and far to pay their final respects. Not many had visited in the last few years, as they, themselves, were getting old and worn out and the burden and expense of caring had become too much to bear.

It was finally decided to switch off the life support and close the doors of the church for ever. The last ever service in Carnkie Chapel was to take place on August 22nd 2010. I was not able to go, but the pain of bereavement was great, as our family had been extremely closely involved in the life and work of the old chapel and then the new one, opened in 1900, for generations. So many memories came flooding back as I remembered the hours spent on the premises for many reasons, not only those of praying and worshipping.

Other families had been similarly involved, and all should be remembered as parts of the same body. It would be defeatist to have no hope for the future despite the closure of the building I wrote this eulogy/tribute for remembrance and encouragement. This is not a time of lament, it is a celebration of the lives and spirits of those who have passed through these doors to worship, pray and work. They were those who over the years were caretakers, or acted

as volunteer workers: stokers for the old coke boiler and the Tortoise stove for the heating; early -morning door openers and clock winders; grass cutters and weed pullers.

They were those who put up the scaffolding for the platform for Sunday School Anniversary and those who filled the oil lamps and trimmed the wicks, cleaned the brass umbrella holders on the end of the seats, brushed the carpets and polished the communion rail, dusted the flowery crevices along the front of the choir, decorated for Harvest Festival and later cleaned up the oat ears and barley whiskers.

They were those who cleaned out the draughty outside lavatories with their old wooden seats before the advent of the flush, putting soap and towel in the preachers' vestry and clean water in the carafe for his dry throat while he took the service, also placing fresh flowers on the communion table or preparing the bread and wine. Someone also gave the preacher dinner and tea and encouraged him to go to Sunday School in the afternoon and enliven the discussion in the adult class rather than snoozing before the parlour fire.

They were those who ran Bazaars and Sales of Work and Coffee Mornings, who made jam and chutney and buns and cakes and sold plants and fruit and vegetables; those who boiled the water and made and served the tea and coffee and the Cream Tea splits and pasties and saffron cake.

They were those who organised and ran the Social evenings and Guild and Prayer meetings, Sunday School and Youth Club week after week and year after year; those who sang in the choir and trained the singers; those who played the organ and those who pumped the air into the bellows of the organ, frantically struggling to keep up with the demand when the organist was playing at his loudest and with deepest diapason; those who put up the hymn numbers and took up the collection, those who counted it and took care of it and those who audited the accounts.

So many Local Preachers have stood in this pulpit, who have painstakingly, even painfully, prepared and delivered their sermons, coming from all walks of life: the farmer, the farm labourer, the fisherman, the quarry man, the stone mason, the blacksmith, the insurance salesman, the doctor, the teacher, the shopkeeper, the postmaster and ex-Arsenal footballer, and, of course, the many Circuit ministers. They could not know what influence their words and actions would have on the people and their children, but in faith preached the Word in their own interpretation. The inexorable tick of the clock on the wall above the door measured not only the length, but the interest and merit of each sermon, which could bore and irritate, or touch and inspire. Those they have influenced, made, and are making, their own marks on the world.

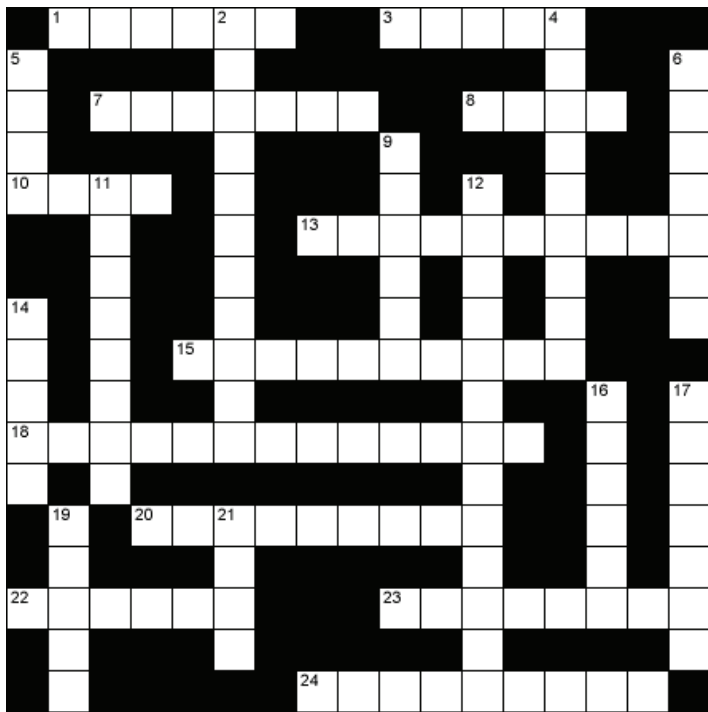
It was once emphatically stated from this pulpit that "This Church will never

close!", but like people who grow ill, grow old, lose their strength and die, the same has happened to this chapel. The chapel, with its building and its activities has been an extension of family life in the village, or was it the other way round? It has met the requirements of its time and has been successful – it has done its work, but on the other hand cannot continue. Our nostalgia for the old days is strong. Our sadness is because the closure marks the end of a way of life. The people have gone and now the once strong physical symbol of the protective walls is being taken away.

The closing of this chapel is not so much an ending as a beginning. As King George V1 said at the end of his Christmas broadcast in 1939, "I feel that we may all find a message of encouragement in the lines which, in my closing words, I would like to say to you: 'I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied, "Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.'" * May that Almighty Hand guide and uphold you all."

* Poem: Excerpt from 'God Knows', by Minnie Haskins, (1875-1957).

Mary (Spargo) Connelly. August 2010. Carnkie, Wendron, Helston, Cornwall.



The Crossword
Clues can be
found on page 9

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Articles for *The CHRONICLE* - Summer edition

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

The last day for the Summer Chronicle is 1 May 2011

The Chronicle is also 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 |
| Games | Alternate Monday Afternoons |

Publication Team :-

Proof Reading:

Mailing Secretary & Treasurer: Mrs Susie Thomas

Please send any contributions towards the Chronicle and mailing cost to her at -
2 Ardale Close, Worthing, BN11 6HW

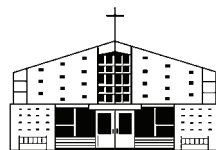
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Telephone 01903 260568

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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. In 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 it was joined by the Churches of Christ in Great Britain and Ireland in 1981 and the 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 September 1961 when the congregation became too large to be accommodated in the church building that is now the hall. This first building was opened in 1948.

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

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



Goring United Reformed Church, Worthing, West Sussex.
www.gurc.org.uk

The CHRONICLE

Summer 2011



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

GORING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

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

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

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Worship in the Church Sanctuary

Sundays

- 8.00am Prayer & Praise - with Holy Communion on first Sunday in month.
- 10.30am Morning Worship - with Holy Communion on first Sunday in month.
- Family service monthly as announced
- Junior Church with Crèche
- 6.00pm Evening Worship - with Holy Communion on third Sunday in month

Mid-week

- 10.30am Bible Study on first Thursday in month

The CHRONICLE

Vol. 68 - No. 627 Summer 2011

Front Cover

Photograph of the Church taken on a very windy June morning this year.

The banner, 'Come Holy Spirit', was made by a group led by Caroline Hibbs in 1994. The group has made a number of banners depicting various events in the Church calendar and are hung on the Sanctuary walls at the appropriate times.

Articles for The CHRONICLE

Closing date for the next CHRONICLE magazine is the 1 August

www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle



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Andrew Sellwood —

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Did you know this passage from John 14 v 6 has been for the last 200 years and still is one of the most divisive passages in the Bible. How can it be that this defines the message of the gospel? Ah, but some say it's too exclusive and puts people off. Recently I attended the Ministers Spring School where I was reunited with the scholarly discipline of Biblical criticism. It's all very challenging and controversial, I heard many things I did not agree with even things that made me angry (just a bit). I began to think why am I here this is all wrong, a waist of time, but then I realised it was having the effect of focusing my thoughts on what I hold dear in my understanding of scripture and faith. I was being put out of my comfort zone, challenged; and maybe sometimes that is a good thing for us all. This challenging review of the Bible in some way was fitting in with the forthcoming Zero Intolerance campaign. How do others read and hear scripture?

For a growing number of progressive Christians The New Testament, for example, is littered with language borrowed from Imperial Rome – Kingdom, a chosen race, a Holy nation, rule etc. to some this echoes repression and rings alarm bells. More Biblical words that trouble people are - obedience, judgement, law, redemption, slavery, victory, hell, the devil, evil, punishment, a few from a very long list.

Most of us Christians read scripture and these 'so called' troublesome words just flow over us and we are blissfully unaffected by them – that begs the questions do we ignore them because we have become immune to them, or do none of the words we read really register? Do they all just go over our heads?

We must remember the words we have in our Bibles are a written form of an oral story telling style. So mixed in with the gospel writings there are the rich and varied strands of contemporary folk stories, Old Testament teachings, first century Palestinian issues, cryptic references to oppressive Roman imperialism and concerns over the corrupt religious structures of the day.

The Jewish nation was also teetering on the threshold of its very destruction after the all out war with Rome 66–73AD.

Jesus had no time for faffing around he had to tell it how it was – the truth. Jesus moved the focus from the issues of worldly politics and government to a divine kingdom. So you can begin to see how it was legitimate to use the language of the day to describe a parallel but different new world, a divine kingdom rather than a worldly one. So yes we have to be sensitive to the concerns of others, help them understand but at the same time not reducing the empowering gospel message to a nice story. It is the word of God for the salvation of humanity. It is the Holy Spirit who tells us this is not exclusive but personal – Jesus says to us all **“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”**

Yours in His service Andrew

Read about, 'Being Out of our Comfort Zone' on page 8

Michael Donnelly

14 May 1939 - 5 May 2011

Did you know Michael ?

“Yes”, you might have said, but at the service to celebrate his life on 2 June, some of us realised how little we really knew of him at all.

Michael was born on 14 May 1939 in his grandmother’s house in Belmont. He was the eldest of three children; being older brother to sisters Barbara and Pauline.

He enjoyed school and was an excellent pupil and also enjoyed many sports.

In 1957 he became one of the last Conscripts to be ‘called up’. He attended Reigate Congregational Church which had started a tennis club. Robin, Michael’s friend of long standing and Terry, Michael’s brother-in-law told us a little of Michael’s background. How he used to play tennis and go jogging and running with Robin in the Surrey countryside, enjoying the scenery and the evening birdsong. Then in 1984 he entered the Paris Marathon, and went on to complete in several of the Seven Sisters Runs.

Michael would set himself difficult targets. When he was quite young his maternal grandmother bought him a piano which he went on to play

for his own enjoyment as much as for others, and became qualified to teach others to do so. He also played the violin and the viola. We heard how he made it fun for his pupils. He learned new languages too, including Arabic. Robin said, “Michael always strived for excellence in all he did: his day to day work, his violin, his biology qualification and teaching practice, his interest in languages, his garden and the Lay Preaching Course which he undertook and completed.”

He joined the staff of Oxfam, a charity which was close to his heart, travelling back and forth to Oxford from home on his Vesper Moped.

He was a courageous man, who often went alone, sometimes to the pier where he would tell anyone who would listen to him, about his faith in Jesus Christ.

Rev Andrew Sellwood shared some thoughts about Michael too. He said that Michael was a great reader, and often wanted to talk through

some of the things he'd read which interested him, or the interpretation of which troubled him.

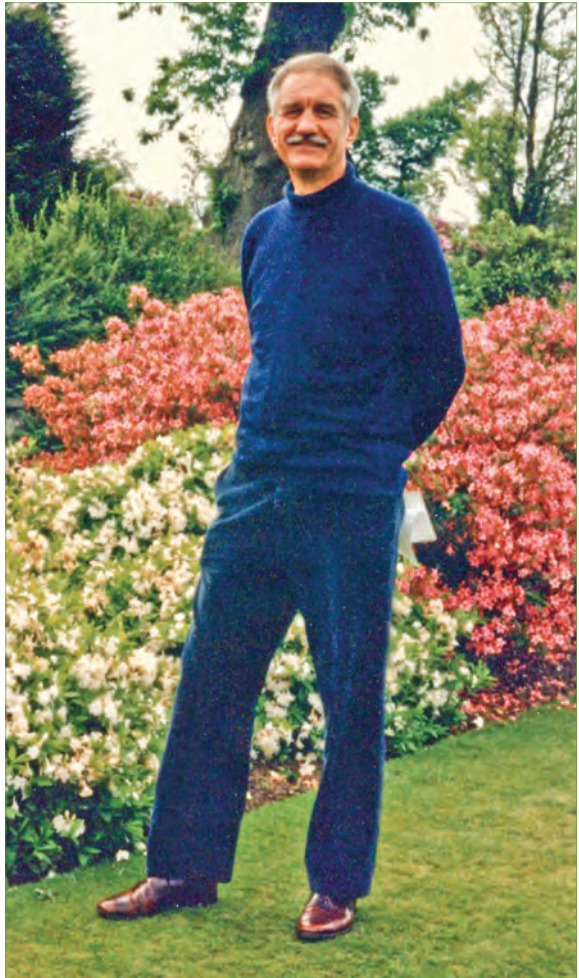
His faith was straightforward "God is Love", a message reflected in the passage from 1 John 4: 4-15 (which we heard read at the service).

Michael could never understand conflict in the church, and his was often the voice of conscience at the church meeting.

He sought simple ways of making things right *now*. His faith was strong and focused, and Michael was able to tell strangers that Jesus loves them.

He had a genuine compassion for others. He was a gentle man.

He never talked about the illness that he suffered for ten years, always being more interested in others than himself.



He did not wish to cause anxiety, neither in family nor among friends. A very private man. "He gave so much to us all in so many ways." "He will be greatly missed - he has our love, respect and thanks."

*Compiled from notes contributed by the family
and from those taking part in the service of thanksgiving.*

Out of our Comfort Zone

I mentioned this earlier when I said I was out of my comfort zone. But what exactly does that mean. Well I have recently been working with a couple of other churches looking at their 'mission potential'. Both churches made up of members well past retirement age with no children in the congregation. Both churches are as traditional as they come. They share a history of having congregations numbering in the 300's with 100+ children a choir of 50. Now there are less than 40 members in each rattling around a crumbling Victorian mausoleum. What can be done? Can there be any chance of renewal?

One church has got to grips with the situation and realised they had to *do church differently*. They prayed and prayed and studied the Bible and came up with the word 'Hospitality'. A vision began to come into focus. Now they have a café lounge open 6 days a week! There is also Internet access provided. The lounge is not just a few chairs and tables in a shabby church hall but a totally redesigned part of the building (including an area of the sanctuary) that rivals the smartest of any high street coffee shop. But it is not like any other café, it is distinctly Christian with books and leaflets, contemporary Christian music playing in the background. A Christian councillor is employed on a part time basis to meet the needs of some of the visitors.

The next step was to respond to the increasing level of interest and enquiries of visitors about Christian faith. An Alpha course was arranged but this was not very well attended, a temporary set back for the church. Then a new initiative was begun; people were invited to an informal café style service on a Saturday. It had an embarrassing start with two or three guests but after six months over thirty new people have been added to the worshipping community. I think that's the key - the people have moved away from being church to being a worshipping community. The project is evolving and has ignited new life and witness in to the church. It is important that the project has the support of all the members of the church only two had resigned over the new developments. This church moved out of their comfort zone to greater things.

The other church, well that is a very different story. They wanted new people especially children but they didn't want to do anything about it. They wanted to stay in their 'comfort zone' without change. But in reality this was no comfort zone, it was a very dangerous place to be. They struggled on for two years without a minister and the grade two listed buildings were rapidly deteriorating. Then one day they had the offer of a full time minister and a youth and family worker who both shared a vision for transforming the buildings and developing a contemporary worship centre, a project that had already

been well established to involve people from the three university campuses that surrounded the church. There were grants available so no worry about money. Pastoral care and provision for Sunday worship would be provided for the existing congregation [numbering 37] at a 100% level so they were not just being sidelined. However the church members did not want the buildings to be touched and thought the young people would be disruptive, that is the prerogative of the church meeting. Now the church has been re-categorised from being a mission church to a dying church, there is no prospect of them being introduced to a minister for the near future. They had always had their own minister so they expected one now.

The pattern of ministry has changed even in my brief time of 17 years or so. The one church one minister model is long gone. In Southern Synod the ratio is one minister to about 180 members. A great proportion of time is taken up with administration and planning. A recent report showed 25 years ago pastoral duty took up about 40% of a ministers time, 40% given to leading worship and preparation, 10% personal devotions, 10% given to administration. Now it is more like 10%, 30%, 60%, the 10% personal devotions have gone altogether.

There are so many other calls on a minister's time outside the local church. This is not out of choice but an expectation for ministers to be available for these extra responsibilities. Synod committees can be very demanding for instance. I

am on the strategic ministerial deployment committee representing the SSSA and the SWSUA. It doesn't help I have churches in two Synod Areas, twice the meetings!! There are other Synod initiatives that demand minister's involvement from time to time, the Zero Intolerance campaign, Vision4life, Catch the Vision and other mission initiatives etc. I am called to devise and provide training sessions for those on the TLS course. There are developments on the ecumenical front too particularly with the Methodist Church and at local fraternal level; the ongoing processes of seeking grouping of local churches and resources. Due to these inevitable developments ministerial training is being seen as having a new priority. Ministers have to be knowledgeable of new trends in mission and church development and equipped to respond to lead churches through these times of rapid change.

People have wondered when my day off is, so have I? It is a problem at the moment to stick to one day, technically it is Friday, but funerals, training, tutoring commitments and synod meetings often tend to be on Friday so I try to take an hour here and there when possible. Where did I begin this article ... ah yes comfort zones; are you content to remain in your comfort zone or is there more to do? Are you up for a challenge?

Proverbs 16:9 says it so well,

"A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps".

Andrew Sellwood

Tuesday Fellowship

We had a visit from two ladies, Ruth Bealing and her sister Mary, who had come from Devon to speak to us about the El Shaddai -Charitable Trust.

To be honest with you all, I have never heard of the organisation at all, so I learnt something that afternoon. For those of you in the same boat as me, it is an organization who help under privileged children and their families who live in the slum areas of India. The ladies presented the afternoon well. I was shocked to learn that parents harm their children to put them in a better position for begging.

One lad described himself as a nobody. We were asked if he looked like a nobody. I shook my head as I feel all children are important to Christ. El Shaddai take the street children in and give them a home and education and a life that every child should have. Education is the key work of El Shaddai. All in all, an informative afternoon.

Next we had a visit from a man called Geoffrey Runacres who played some music that was popular several years ago and that the group remembered. I didn't remember many so I was impressed how the people could actually sing in those days not like the noise you hear today. At the end we had a bit of fun when first Peggy and Jane then Barbara and I were given shakers to mess about with during the song. The song Geoffrey chose for Barbara and me was a fast and energetic one so I decided to shake my shaker at him. I was pleased to see him again as I knew him as president of the residents committee

at Caer Gwent. Geoffrey is a lovely man and the afternoon was an enjoyable one.

Next, as Freda Almond was unable to join us, we had a visit from a lovely lady called Jennie Rolling who was a special needs teacher at Palatine Road School.

She told us about her work at the now combined Highdown and Palatine schools called Oak Grove College. It is on the grounds of Durrington High School. Jennie enjoyed her work as a teacher but is now retired. She is a keen gardener. Oak Grove college opened in 2006 with a tip of a land so Jennie with other teachers encouraged the students to make a nice garden and land for the students to play in and relax. We saw photos of before and after the land was transformed and I must say I thought they have done a fantastic job.

A lot of the young people go on to get jobs in garden centres or shops.



Photos by Marrienne Barber

Table Tennis Group enjoying some warm Spring sunshine



Tuesday Fellowship: continued -

It was hard work and in the Summer of 2008 and there was a great transformation. I thought it was a good afternoon and heart warming to hear of such initiatives.

At the last Meeting of the session, we said "g. day" to Andrew. As I am expecting to be recovering after my visit to Royal Brompton at the time of writing I don't anticipate being at that meeting. Hopefully I will report again next session. *Janet Dean*

Property Management

- **The Manse:** Whilst Andrew and Jill were away earlier this year, a company was called in to tackle the serious damp problems that were evident in the hall. A damp proof course was injected, mouldy plaster was removed from one of the walls which was then re-plastered. Repairs were made to cracked rendering and finally all was redecorated.

We hope that Andrew and Jill find this to be a great improvement.

- **The Main Hall:** Those who use the Main Hall will have noticed a new ceiling. The work which was undertaken by L C Nicholas took just under two weeks. During the past few years the ceiling had begun to disintegrate and it was becoming increasingly urgent to do something about it - parts were beginning to fall - it was getting dangerous for anybody in the hall. Whilst the builders were on site we took the advantage of improving the lighting in the area to give a much brighter hall. The cost amounted to almost £4000 and we give thanks to all who gave so generously at the special gift day - the cost of the work was completely covered. Thank you.
- **Improvements to the Little Fishes Playgroup** were finally completed a few weeks ago with the laying of the covered soft play area outside. If you have had the occasion to visit Little Fishes recently you will have seen how much of an improvement there has been for the staff and children. Sue Mitchell has already written something on page 11 of this magazine, and intends to write more in a full report after their Opening Day on 21 July.
- **The Quinquennial Survey** of the buildings was carried out in May by the same company of Architects as in previous years. We are not expecting a great deal to be said in the report, as we have covered so much recently. Our church roof is always a question of concern as occasionally it leaks in wind and rain. It is becoming clear that the cause is a fault in the original design i.e. in the way that the copper roof coverings were laid and jointed - if the work was being done today it would be carried out quite differently. We wait to see what the report says. At the May Church meeting, it was said that we need to look at the sanctuary as whole - addressing the heating, and the insulation of the roof, walls and windows. The exterior brickwork needs re pointing. What use could the building be put on weekdays?

Graham Redman



2nd & 3rd JULY
Sat >> 10.30am – 3pm
Sun >> 11.45am – 3pm

Exhibition of HOBBIES



- ❖ spot the 'Scarecrows'...
- ❖ Art... Photography...Poetry....
- ❖ Needlecraft...Music...Garden produce...



REFRESHMENTS throughout week-end

Sat / Sun 12-2pm...*ploughmans lunches* available.



SOMPTING U.R. CHURCH
Cokeham Road. **FREE ADMISSION.**

Collecting Coins



Our Chronicle Editor asked for information about members hobbies.

So here is one of mine: **COINS.**

I have collected since I was in my teens. Not for value, but for interest. I have gradually pruned my collection from worldwide to British, Swedish, Russian, tokens and medallions.

The above are amongst my favourites:

1. Queen Elizabeth I 1562 6d. 2. A copper fals of Al-Zahir Giyath ad-Din Ghazi. [Son of Saladin, ruled the Ayyubids of Aleppo from 1186-1216 A.D.]

3. Sestertius of Sabina, wife of Hadrian, about 100 A.D. [found in Chelmsford during the dredging of the River Chelmer about 1969 - paid 30p!]

4. Third of a Farthing 1902 [used in Malta].

5 & 6. My most valuable coins - A shilling and sixpence of George III, both dated 1787, almost uncirculated. £80,000 worth was minted after there being no small change in circulation at all. These coins were given to me by a Miss Salter of Great Baddow URC, after I used some of my coins in a children's address during a service I conducted. That's why they are my most valuable.

Wilf. Rhodes.

Poems by Marianne Barber

The following poem is in memory of a taxi ride in St. Kitts.

Caribbean Calypso

Be happy, says taxi Harry,
Be happy, sing the steel band,
Be happy, wave the coconut palms
in this sunny land.

Yellow belly flowers, they call them,
Happy Harry leads the tour.
We see old sugar plantations,
warm laughter fills the car.

Palm trees lean, flying fish jump,
bananas keep growing on trees.
Vegetation lush and ladies display
and try to sell their beads.

Bread fruit and mango line the road,
shacks and little houses.
How many children have you, we ask,
twelve, not all same wife, he says.

Be happy, sings taxi Harry,
be happy, play the steel band,
be happy, while we can be,
be happy, and hold my hand.

Five-Fifteen

Exclaiming how
I love this time of day;
I view my watch and see
it is always five-fifteen.

In late afternoon sun,
an out of time aura visits
encapsulating memories,
at the hour of wild flowers
and weeds, firmly held
between cracks and wastelands,
fearlessly rocking in the
cradling arms of peachy sun;
dancing and playing before
Puck, Bottom and Titania rise.

At five past six
it is over.
Chill descends,
clouds gather;
we cover our arms with
cardigans and things.

Shops close with the pink-tinged daisies,
waves close their beaches;
trees close their eyelid leaves;
and we sick children lay, while the
silver eiderdown clouds cover us carefully
like a mother.

Marianne has been involved with various poetry groups in Kingston upon Thames and Worthing and is a founder member of the Worthing Beachcombers Poetry Group. She has read at a number of arts venues throughout Surrey and Sussex. Her first collection 'Strands' was published in 2008.

'These are poems to make you feel better. Playful, sensuous and inventive - they have a magical quality. Marianne has the gifts of humour and insight. Her poems about relationships - between men and women, parent and child, or female friends - are poignant, but often make you smile. A quote by Robyn Bolam.

Have you got six years to spare? There's a question!

Have I? Let me see! I have reached the top of the hill and now I am rapidly slipping and sliding down the other side!! What am I talking about you ask!! Well for the past five years I have been studying for a BA (Hons.) in Embroidered Textiles on a part time basis. Although its title is Embroidered Textiles my study has taken me into the realms of Art History, Modern Art and Art Embroidery.



As I write I have just finished writing an 8000 word dissertation, no mean feat for a woman of my age with no academic background I can tell you. I am sure your next question would be why!! Let me enlighten you.

It is a personal challenge. About six years ago I heard about the degree and after much thought and yes, prayer - which was answered when I met a lady who said she had just graduated with a 2:1 art degree. The meeting was the sign I was looking for as she proudly told that she was 72. That was it, I enrolled for the September 2006 intake at the Julia Caprara School of Textile Art (formerly the Opus School) for no other reason than my personal satisfaction.

The course is studied by correspondence with regular tutorials by telephone and meetings. We have lots of support from the school and the group of students I am part of. Some of whom are from France, Germany, Canada, Iceland, Denmark, Australia and New Zealand as well as the UK.



The journey so far has been interesting, not always fun in fact sometimes very hard and once has reduced me to tears; I didn't think I was ever going to catch up. I have learned about modern art which was something I had never given much credence to before.



Some modern art still leaves me cold and some I have found quite disturbing but of course, I have discovered some that I really love.

The work has been a real challenge so far and I am amazed at myself with how much I know and the huge capacity my brain has to soak up more and more information. Embroidery is a huge area of artistic expression and in my work I use an experimental approach which some people may not like but I love it because I can do what I like and break all the traditional rules of stitchery!

The course is very well organised with tutor support all the way through. This time next year my graduate work will be shown in a London gallery, the culmination of my spare six years; it's been hard work but with the support of tutors, family, friends and my faith that the Lord cares for me will take me through the last year and beyond.

Fortunate I had those six years to spare really!!

Caroline Hibbs



The following notes were included in a private recording of the music of Alan Bell, an arrangement for piano and soprano.

Kenneth Hopkins

The Wind in the Willows - Alan Bell 1934-

As I was walking one morning in Spring
I met with some trav'lers in an old country lane.
One was an old man, the second a maid,
And the third was a young boy who smiled and said,

'Like the wind in the willows, and the birds in the sky,
There's a bright sun to warm us wherever we lie.
We have bread and fishes and a jug of red wine
to share on our journey with all of mankind.'

I sat down beside them, the flow'rs all around
And we ate on a mantle spread out on the ground.
They told me of prophets and princes and kings
And they spoke of the one God who knows everything.

I asked them to tell me their name and their race
That I might remember their kindness and grace.
My name is Joseph, this is Mary my wife
And this is our young son, who is our delight.

We travelled the whole World by land and by sea
To tell all the people how they can be free.

A Birthday Treat for Doreen



Back in January I had a 'large' birthday – one I really prefer not to dwell upon, but I had a wonderful few days at the time – thanks to my two lovely daughters.

However, the present they gave me had to be saved until Summer came – and Saturday 11th June was THE DAY!!! – my long-awaited Hot-Air Balloon flight.

It was to be in the evening so five of us set off during the late afternoon to go to the launch site. On the way we stopped for tea at the most interesting place: The Old Railway Station at Petworth. It has been converted so beautifully into a Hotel, one which provides excellent teas within a perfect setting, especially for those who are nostalgic for railways as they were before Dr Beeching's axe fell. I thoroughly recommend it – for the garden, the Pullman Coach bedrooms, and the waiting/tea room. Plus of course the lovely food.

When we reached the field from where we took off the balloons arrived on their trailers and it was all hands on deck.

The menfolk, and ladies, not me though, who were taking to the air were roped in to help spread out the balloons prior to inflating. They are enormous!!! Getting into the basket was not easy for me. At eighty I am not as agile as I would like to be but once afloat it was truly wonderful: a most moving experience to see the landscape laid out below us. Beverley, my younger daughter, who will never go into a lift braved her fears and came with me as did David my son-in-law and they both were as overwhelmed with it all as I was.

How thankful we must be for God's Wondrous Creation.

Doreen Norris

Goring Little Fishes Playgroup

We are delighted with our new and improved premises and outdoor area. The children were able to play outside following the half-term break and have enjoyed both the fine weather and watching a downpour!

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to the Church for giving us the space created by the demolition of the East Hall; it really has made a difference to the quality of experiences we can offer the children. Thank you also to everyone for your patience and understanding during the upheaval of the build.

There will be an official opening day on Thursday 21st July when we hope the Mayor will be able to attend; everyone will be very welcome to join us.

Sue Mitchell



The New Outside Area. We shall be able to read and see the full story of the Little Fishes refurbished and new premises in pictures, in the Autumn edition of *The CHRONICLE*

CHRISTIAN AID BARN DANCE

There was a good mix of experienced dancers and beginners in the church hall in early May to enjoy a Barn Dance to raise money for Christian Aid organised by Bett Swierk. Keith Gauntlett was the caller and the five piece Mick's Malarkey Band provided the live music.

After getting to grips with the delights of Barbary Bell, Ninepins, the Bridge of Athlone and the Gay Gordons amongst other dances, everyone sat down to an enormous Ploughman's Supper ably prepared by Valerie and Bett earlier. Although there were probably a few aches and pains experienced the morning after, a good time was had by all and the evening raised the impressive sum of £120.

Susanna Gauntlett

Five Sayings of Augustine

- The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page."
- Love is a temporary madness. It erupts like an earthquake and then subsides. And when it subsides you have to make a decision. You have to work out whether your roots have become so entwined together that it is inconceivable that you should ever part. Because this is what love is.
- Resentment is like taking poison and hoping the other person dies."
- There is no saint without a past, no sinner without a future."
- Hope has two beautiful daughters; their names are Anger and Courage. Anger at the way things are, and Courage to see that they do not remain as they are."

Take a chance on life!

The Easter celebrations took place in Crete with much bell ringing as usual this year. Our son-in-law, Christos, was employed to give the church and its grounds a good spring clean. It was all ready in time for the floral dressing of the bier and the Good Friday service and procession and the Saturday Midnight procession and service – “Christos Anesti! Christ is Risen! Alithos Anesti! He is Risen indeed!” Afterwards, to the continuing sound of the bells, all stood by the huge bonfire on which the effigy of Judas was burnt, then people went home, nursing their lit candles, to bring the new light of the Risen Christ into their homes.

As St. George’s day fell on Easter day this year, those celebrations were postponed until the Monday, when, once again the congregation gathered for the special service for St. George, at which the priest blessed the local farmers’ sheep. There were refreshments afterwards: fresh cheese (from sheep’s milk) with bread; lamb pilaf; traditional cheese pies and local wine or water.

Raffle tickets had been on sale during this time and Helen and Christos bought their quota. After

refreshments, Helen had to leave on business and left. Later, her mobile phone rang. It was one of the church officers. “You’ve won one of the prizes in the raffle, one of the lambs,” the voice said. “When would you like it delivered?” She told the person to arrange it with Christos, who was still at the church. Visions of a couple of good roast dinners filled her thoughts. Delivery was arranged for the next day at noon. The pick-up truck arrived, the man jumped out. Helen and Natasha were watching. “Oh, he’s not got boxes or bags - it must be a live one!” They ran to see it and help to pen it in the field. The tailgate was lowered and down jumped not a small fluffy lamb, but a full sized curly-horned ram, which proved a little more difficult to deal with! Next day, however, the shepherd who daily brings his sheep to graze in the next field offered to let it join his flock until such time as they had other plans for it. (Cringe!) Lucky ram to have more happy days, possibly months, with a whole new set of wives.

How often I have bought tickets for big and small prizes from worthy (and not so worthy) and very different kinds of charities and organizations, all looking for the use of my money. Then would come the waiting time, running into weeks, even months, for that special prize. In it to win it! Someone, somewhere, wins. My luck has not yet been good enough to provide me with much

more than a Victoria sponge from a church raffle, and a few pounds from the lottery a very long time ago.

It is hard to wait, especially in these days of instant gratification. We have mobile phones in our pockets, letters sent in an instant by electronic mail and we can even see each other while we speak. Yet there are times when we are 'put on hold' and it seems to me that half my life has been spent in waiting for the simplest things also the most important and complicated. Some examples include: waiting for dough to rise, or for a Christmas cake to be baked; for seeds to germinate and plants to grow to maturity; for exam results and university acceptance; to find a job. There was the waiting for nine months for a baby to reach full term and the 24 hours of labour in the birth. There is waiting for respite from a difficult situation. How difficult it is when our lives seem to be in a frustrating fallow period and we are stopped dead in our tracks. It may be due to illness or ageing, unemployment or depression, or perhaps just to change course and yet be in doubt as to the nature of our calling.

The busy life of the Dean of Westminster, Michael Mayne, came to a halt when he was compelled to take a year off when he was suffering from M.E. He wrote a book, called "A Year Lost and Found" reflecting and tracing the course of that strange time in the limbo of illness. He also speaks of the positive gains and heightened awareness of

simple blessings. It was a crucial time of his life, 'lost' but not 'wasted', finding in it a rich vein of spiritual gold.

After the death of Jesus, the grieving, bewildered disciples struggled to see the way ahead but the Risen Jesus helped them to adjust to a new reality. The waiting time was a period of transition – a bridge between their former time as disciples and the future, continuing His work. On the road to Emmaus, after listening to the distressed pair, He helped them piece together the jigsaw of events to see in them the fulfilment of the familiar prophecies. Jesus was preparing them to receive his promised Holy Spirit. They needed to be receptive, for no gift of God is ever forced upon a person who is not open to receive it. Their period of transition and waiting became a time of healing and preparation without which they could not have found strength to go on, or to realize that the end was really a new beginning.

The image of God is to be seen in us, equally in our active lives, our work and creativity, and also in our passive lives, through the way in which we accept and respond to things that are done to us and for us.

The Risen Jesus brought the disciples to a newness of life; the waiting became a blessed time of renewal and transformation. 'Peace be with you.'

Mary Connelly.

*Press Release***Goring solicitor proves that “Paperwork Matters”!**

Hello. I am Alison Edwards, and I live just up the road from the URC in Rosebery Avenue. I together with my two daughters Jenny and Laura have loved coming down to *The Ark* for some 5 years or more, and now that both girls are at school we love to join the fun and worship and catch up with everyone at Messy Church.

I wanted to share with you a new development in my life.

Since 1998 I have been a solicitor in Worthing – specialising in writing Wills, and dealing with the administration of estates. I was a partner in the firm NLH law and enjoyed the work, but when my father, Tony Chattaway, passed away suddenly while out walking in May last year something changed. I never imagined his death would be a major turning point in my life, but just over a one year after he died, I am launching Paperwork Matters, a business to help people cope with paperwork, after experiencing first hand, at a personal level, what tackling a mountain of red tape is like after losing a loved one.

When Dad died I helped my mother with all the paperwork at home as it was a lot for her to cope with. I then had the opportunity to take a sabbatical from NLH and so stopped

to consider where my life was going; during that time I helped other people in situations like Mum’s, and came to realize there was a need for someone like me to help people, especially older people, become more organised, whether they have lost a partner or not.

I found that the skills I have developed can help people who may be facing life on their own, or they may have a life partner who is ailing and they want to get on top of things – they may simply want to learn to be more organised or to learn new skills such as mastering the internet to be able to do online shopping.

My services are available to all, not just older people, and include helping people organise and de-clutter their homes. I am also available to give talks to groups of people – offering tips on how to become more organised.

I am taking a complete break from the Law and so the new business does not provide legal services (and is not regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority – I am legally required to mention that whilst I remain on the Solicitors Roll as a practicing solicitor!)

For more information please call me On 07863 878042 or email me at alison@paperworkmatters.co.uk.

You can also find out more and see a picture of me on my website - www.paperworkmatters.co.uk.

Alison Edwards

Found: More Than Enough

A story from America
- Bobby Hitchin

God has blessed all of humankind with more than enough. Yet God continually surprises us with acts of generosity and moments of compassion that reveal how all are blessed, all are claimed, and all are found in and by God.

Unusually harsh one moment, unusually caring the next, Bobby was a fixture in the neighborhood around the church building. Like a bee, ever hovering, never quite landing, he kept an eye on folks living at the edge of the community. Occasionally he would land in the pastor's office for a visit

and a question. "Do you know Abbie could use some groceries?" "Could you loan me twenty dollars for a week?" "Did you know Matthew was laid off again?" "Brittany doesn't go to church. Will you talk to her about baptizing her baby?" "Could I get a ride to the doctor?"

One winter day at the back edge of a snow storm, Bobby walked down the middle of the street. The wind was still

blowing as the pastor stopped, rolled down the car window, and said, "Hop in." Bobby said, "No, I'm walking. But wait, I found two dollars in the street. It isn't mine. Put it in the collection for me. Let God know it's from me." He pushed the two soggy bills through the car window.

On another day, without thought of knocking, he walked into the pastor's office and slapped a twenty dollar bill on the desk. He found it, he said, while taking a shortcut behind the church. As before, he added, "It isn't mine. Will you put it in the collection?"

Months later, still a young man, Bobby died quietly in hospice care. There was no immediate family to claim his body. Two local pastors officiated at his memorial. His girlfriend, her brother, a hospice nurse, two neighbors, and several church members recounted moments of unusual harshness and unusual caring. And then they sang "Amazing Grace." And in a moment of quiet, one could imagine God saying, "He is mine."

Reflect

When have you experienced unexpected generosity?

What determines your personal attitude in giving?

In what sense are earned, found, or gift funds "not mine"?

Act

List all the ways your congregation receives funds for ministry and mission.

Pray

God of sanctuary and street, open my life to unexpected gestures of generosity. Examine my attitude as I give. Renew a spirit of gratitude in my receiving and joy in my giving. Amen.

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Produced by and for Churches in Canada and the U.S.A.

Strawberry Jam

1 ¼Kg Strawberries
1kg Jam Sugar
2 Tablespoons Lemon Juice



Have put aside about 6 or 8 warmed and sterilised jam jars with lids and place into a warm oven until required for use.

Halve or quarter the strawberries according to size. Put ¼kg fruit into a preserving pan, mash and heat gently until hot. Then add the rest of the fruit (i.e. 1Kg) and Lemon Juice, gently heating the mixture whilst continually stirring until it boils.

Simmer for about 10-15 minutes until the fruit is tender. Add the sugar and stir until completely dissolved.

Add a knob of butter to help prevent scum forming, and bring the jam to a full rolling boiling point. This has been reached when the mixture does not go off a rapid boil when stirred. Boil for about 3minutes. By this time the jam should have reached setting point, i.e. when the jam begins to set as it falls off the spoon.

Remove excessive scum with a spoon. Leave jam to stand for about 15mins. Then give it a quick stir before filling the jars. Cap immediately.

Graham Redman

Articles for The CHRONICLE - Autumn edition

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

The last day for the Summer Chronicle is 1 August 2011

The Chronicle is also 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 |
| Games | Alternate Monday Afternoons |

Publication Team :-

Proof Reading:

Mailing Secretary & Treasurer: Mrs Susie Thomas

Please send any contributions towards the Chronicle and mailing cost to her at -
2 Ardale Close, Worthing, BN11 6HW

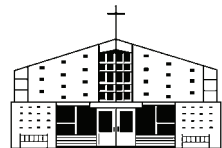
Editor: Graham Redman.
Telephone 01903 260568

5 Salvington Hill, Worthing. BN13 3AT
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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. In 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 it was joined by the Churches of Christ in Great Britain and Ireland in 1981 and the 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 September 1961 when the congregation became too large to be accommodated in the church building that is now the hall. This first building was opened in 1948.

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

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



Goring United Reformed Church, Worthing, West Sussex.

www.gurc.org.uk

The CHRONICLE

Autumn 2011



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

To Autumn by John Keats

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
 Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
 Conspiring with him how to load and bless
 With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
 To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
 And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;

This poem was written in September 1819

The heat and long days of summer are ending and a new season dawns upon us. It begins by being rich and vivid, fruitful and celebratory and ends with a tinge of melancholy as the chill of winter becomes reality.

There is a flourish of hectic activity as the fruits of the harvest are gathered in, an example of the harmony of man and nature working together, hopefully harmoniously not exploitative, our stewardship of creation.

Of course in the Church the focal point of autumn is the harvest celebration or festival. A time of thanksgiving and a reminder of Gods provision, but it's not just about 'worshiping' the fruit and veg on display, harvest is also a metaphor of spiritual issues. From the Bible we have many references, here are three -

" Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains."

James 5:7 [NIV]

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."
 Galatians 6:9 [NIV]

The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

Matthew 9:37

The imagery changes from that of farming to Gods work of salvation. The workers in the field or rather the world are the faithful; they are embarking on the great commission, not harvesting crops or food, but souls. Jesus becomes the first fruit of this harvest. 1 Corinthians 15 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the first fruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

So we now through our mission are to be co-workers with the Lord in task of the Harvest. As I said earlier it is a busy and exciting season.

Yours Andrew

Pastoral Care & Resources at Goring URC

Jesus said "Love one another as I have loved you" St John Chapter 15 v12

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

We can pray: Jesus has shown us how to use the greatest and most powerful gift : the gift of prayer. How do I know who needs my prayers? Who will pray for me? We have a **Prayer Book**.

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

Something on your mind? The Minister or a **pastoral elder** will hear you in confidence, and if you like, will pray with you and/or for you. If you are unable to get to church please ask for a home visit. The names of the pastoral elders are listed in the church handbook.

If you would like one of these please speak to Graham Redman.

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

The flowers that have been part of our worship on Sunday are taken out with a greeting from church friends to those who were unable to join us. They are often taken to sick friends or those with something special to celebrate.

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

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

We can visit those who are stuck indoors:

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

The Book of Remembrance

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

The Handbook - see above

This little book is a directory of names of all who are associated with the church. It also gives the names of elders and lists resources, with other 'useful' information. If you would like your name to be added to this publication please let me know. It is also available in large print. If you do not have an up to date copy, please ask Graham Redman for a copy.

Can you help?

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

Hilary Redman, Pastoral Secretary.

Property Management



Over the past few years the Property Management Group have upgraded most, if not all of the rooms/halls in the Church. This in turn has meant the majority of these rooms are in constant use, bringing people from outside the Church onto the premises.

Did you know that the Church has had it's five yearly (Quinquennial) survey undertaken recently and that we have received the surveyor's report?

One of the surveyor's comments in the Quinquennial survey was -

"The Church and more particularly the associated halls have evidently enjoyed the benefits of some considerable effort and outlay in terms of internal improvement of space, which has also solved some of the previously reported problems externally and it was nice to witness these being put to good use whilst I carried out the survey"

One of his other comments was -

"The area of greatest concern is evidently how to bring an equivalent improvement to the main church".

Have you ever stopped to think about the use of our Church premises, in particular the Sanctuary?

It has very limited use at present. Should we be using it more often; now there's a question!

We are constantly being challenged to think about the way that the Church should move. Is it time to think differently about how we use the sanctuary? Are there any internal or external changes *you* would like to see take place? - We know about the roof, but what about other things like - insulation, the chairs, double glazing, music/organ/piano, carpeting, sound system or maybe something else which comes to your mind. How can we plan for increasing the use of the Sanctuary including other days of the week over the coming years and more importantly how can we encourage more people through our doors?

Currently, there is no insulation in the walls or to the windows and virtually no insulation in the roof. Whilst the radiators heat up the Sanctuary very quickly, the system does not suit the fabric of the building and has a detrimental effect on the organ pipes.

Whatever the Property Management Group does, we want to do it for the benefit of the whole Church, God's Church, both now and for the future. We ask you to prayerfully consider this. This is not only about what we as individuals would personally like to see take place, but we should be aware of what the Lord wants us to do too.

What is His way forward? We need to seek it.

Think back to when The Property Management Group first brought their plans for the changes to the Cornwall Room to everyone; some people thought that they were pretty radical, some people questioned them; but surely they were "of the Lord", which is why they have been such a success. Now can we do something similar for the sanctuary? What is the Lord telling us to do? Please pray about this, this is for the future of this Church. You may of course believe that we have got some things right; if so, please tell us what you think is good too.

If you have visited us recently do you have any suggestions - perhaps something that you do in your own Church which you can share with us?

We would like to encourage every one of you to fill in the questionnaire and place it in the suggestion box on the table at the back of the Church. If you are not able to be with us at the moment, please use a separate piece of paper and headed 'Property Management Group Questionnaire'.

The Questionnaire is being made available in the church during the months of September and October to seek the Lord's will through your contributions.

This is not just for members, but for everyone who worships with us including visitors. So please take this opportunity of picking up a questionnaire.

If you are unable to come to church, but have seen this for the first time in the Chronicle, you also are invited to make suggestions and air your views. You may leave your name if you wish, or the form may be given in anonymously — just as you prefer.

*Wilma Smith and Graham Redman
Property Management Group*

When you have written your comments please either place your questionnaire in the box on the table at the back of the church, or pop it into an envelope and send it to:-

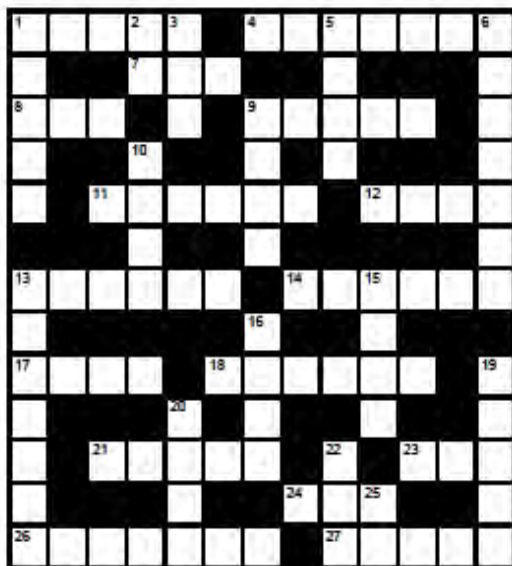
Property Management Group,
Goring United Reformed Church Shaftesbury Avenue, BN12 4EA.

Alternatively e-mail to: - property@gurc.org.uk

The Table Tennis crowd doing what they do best – (when not playing table tennis) - eating & drinking!







Books, Names and Words of the Bible

© 2007 biblequizzes.org.uk

Across

- 1 A book of books (5)
- 4 Shortest book in the Old Testament (7)
- 7 The number of chapters in Philemon (3)
- 8 This testament contains 39 books (3)
- 9 Jesus' brother, who wrote a letter (5)
- 11 In authority before the kings (6)
- 12 His epistle contains one chapter (4)
- 13 Successor to Queen Vashti (6)
- 14 David wrote many of these, set to music (6)
- 17 Wrote about the restoration of the temple (4)
- 18 Originator, writer of a book (6)
- 21 Number of letters written by John (5)
- 23 Number of chapters in 13A (3)
- 24 Galilee, Dead, for example (3)
- 26 Paul wrote many of these (7)
- 27 He prophesied the birthplace of Jesus (5)

Down

- 1 There are 66 of these (5)
- 2 Behold (2)
- 3 Revelation comes in this part of the New Testament (3)
- 5 Donation of money to the poor (4)
- 6 This letter lists the faithful (7)
- 9 He prophesied of the 'day of the Lord' (4)
- 10 A faithful Moabitess (4)
- 13 He foretold the regathering of Israel in prophecy of dry bones (7)
- 15 A prophet who was a herdsman (4)
- 16 One of the gospel writers (4)
- 19 A prophet, reluctant to go to Nineveh (5)
- 20 Adam and Eve ate from this in the garden (4)
- 22 The border of a garment (3)
- 25 Joshua writes about this city near Bethel (2)

FIRST NOTE OF AUTUMN

Curtains drawn together,
dress rehearsal for start of autumn's play.
Excitement of seasons' scents -
favourite chrysanths
appear in florists;
fashions arrive in shops
and magazines.
Bright summer sun dims and mellows;
flocks of birds fly to tropical isles;
leaves sway their swan song
colours: green, amber and gold;
garden centres clear summer bedding.
Grow old, but always spring in step
with autumn.

Marianne Barber

Who said, 'I should write a book?'

My mother said to me on more than one occasion, 'Oh, you could write a book on that!', Could I? She was probably talking about gardening or one of my other hobbies - not about family history, after all, when I was growing up and in my 20s and 30s I knew very little about my ancestors.

I knew that my parents were both born in Tottenham, and that their parents were from Essex and from parts of London. My maternal grandmother told me what she knew of her family, her parents and grandparents.

Writing has never been a very strong point of mine so that is why my answer to my mother's question was obviously, 'NO'. If somebody had asked me to write a book when I was in my teens, I would have said, 'no, not me'.

However to my own surprise my book 'My Redman and Amos Families' was launched on 20 August, this year.

We had a large family get-together, over 40 cousins in all, some of whom had not met before. It was a good day.

It all began when I was about 12 or 15 years old - with my grandmother's help I was able to draw my first family tree. I then started speaking to my aunts and uncles to see what they could tell me.

One part of the family I was puzzled about was my maternal grandfather - the family did not know who his father was and in those days some 'things' were never spoken about.

I did not get very far!

I retired early, when I was 57, and then decided that I could go and visit County Council Family History Record Offices in various parts of the country, to see if I could find out any more. It made some interesting days out for Hilary and me, and was an excuse, if we needed one, to spend the odd night or two away.

During the next few years we collected information about the family from record offices, from on-line sources and from the National Archives in Kew.



The Search Room, National Archives, Kew

I designed a website in the hope that others with similar interests could contact me, which they did. Putting all this together I was able to build quite a large picture of most of the branches of the family. I had bought software for my computer which enabled me to store all of that information. Still no intention of writing a book.

I was desperate to discover who my grandfather's father was - it seemed an impossible task. My brothers and cousins were also keen for me to find out. It was probably four years ago now that I started to write something about each of my ancestors - where and when they were born, who they married, what their occupations were and who their children were. I then had the idea of putting all the pages together and making a little booklet for the immediate family. I suppose that by the time I had added a few words at the beginning something about my memories, and something at the end, I had about 40 pages. I sent a copy to each of my brothers and cousins to comment on, and to write something of their own memories. Hilary said to me one day, 'You are not writing a little booklet but a book!' I had then almost 100 pages.

It was becoming more important to fill in the missing gaps and I was even more determined to find out about my grandfather. I continued to collect information from the internet from around the country, from speaking to people on the telephone and through e-mail correspondence. New members of the family were discovered and it soon became evident that I at last, had information about my grandfather.

I didn't really believe it, after all my searching. I was 99% certain that I had found the answer.

I collected recently taken photographs of all branches of the family, and photos of where my ancestors lived. I was fortunate enough to have inherited around 40 Victorian family photographs which had been passed down to me from my grandmother via my mother - a gem.

Mary's mother and Hilary have spent some considerable time in proof-reading and correcting the writing. With a preface now added, together with sections on my memories, a conclusion and an index the book totalled 168 pages!

New questions arose:-

1. How was I going to get it printed?
2. Who was going to bind it? - and should it be spiral, hard or paper back?
3. How many copies will I need to print? - and who will want a copy?

After many enquiries and puzzling over the question, I decided to print it myself, after all I would have more control of the whole operation that way.

I looked around at various bookbinding companies and decided to settle for the 'Bookbinders of Lewes' - a very small business, run by two ladies. I warmed to them and the quality of the work that they produced.

Sometime in April I printed 50 copies and our dining room table was, for a time, stacked high with piles of paper.

The moment came for the packs of paper to travel to Lewes - a slightly nervous time but in a way exciting. Once the book had been delivered, it was out of my hands. I could not make any more corrections - nobody dared to say that there was a spelling mistake!

Early in July, I received a phone call to say the books were ready for collection.



Collecting the bound volumes from Bookbinders of Lewes

This was to be an exciting trip. It was wonderful to see them bound.

Next, I had to make the jackets for the hard covers, and wait patiently for the 20 August, and the meeting of cousins at the launch..

Besides copies for members of the family, I had to send a copy to the British Library. One has also gone to The National Library of Wales and to each of the relevant County Council Record Offices.

Some of the family have asked, 'What are you going to do next?'; or, 'Are you going to write another book?!'

I don't know, ask Hilary!

Graham Redman

Do you have a past-time, an interest or a hobby that you would like to write about for the Chronicle? Have you visited another church or somewhere interesting this summer, or have you been on a holiday that others may like to read about.

You don't have to be a Church Member here at Goring - maybe you worshipped with us some time ago - maybe you are a regular reader of the magazine.

In any of these cases, if the answer is, "yes I do have something to write about", please let the editor know. He will be pleased to hear from you. You have until the 1st of November so there is plenty of time — at the moment !!

Articles for The CHRONICLE - Winter edition

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

The last day for the Winter Chronicle is 1 November 2011

The Chronicle is also on line at www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle

The Editor apologises for the delayed publication date for this issue of Chronicle. He had severe problems with his computer [what would we do without them !] causing him to lose many important messages.

If you submitted an article which hasn't been printed in this magazine, again please accept his apologies. Kindly re-submit it and if it is still relevant he will endeavour to include it in the winter edition.



Little Fish

The Mayor of Worthing opened the Little Fish Playgroup on 21 July 2011. The playgroup has under a programme which includes building (kitchen, toilet) and outside play area. The playgroup is funded by Sussex County Council.





Fishes Open Day

...thing, Cllr Ann Barlow officially
Fishes Playgroup on Thursday
...uring the past 12 months the
...er-gone a major refurbishment
...ncluded the addition of a new
...lets and meeting room) and an
...The project was funded by West
...cil



Mission Means.....

On Saturday 4th June Valerie and I attended the above day put on by the URC Southern synod at the Hassocks Church. There were representatives from many of the URCs in the area. We received a warm welcome and enjoyed a cup of coffee.

This was followed by worship in the church led by the Rev. Derrick Dzandu-Hedidor. The Bible reading was from Luke 12:35-48, entitled "Watchfulness". The address 'Mission Means.... in our time'. This was a helpful introduction to the groups that were to follow.

Then we went to our different groups. Valerie and I were both in the group entitled "How to double Your Congregation in a year". This was helpful.

Some of the things I noted are as follows:-

1. A warm welcome, not just the greeters at the door but the whole congregation.
2. People need to know what we believe—clear message
3. Hands on Ministry (sometimes the minister is over=stretched with divided geographical congregations.
4. Appropriate Bible readings for the area which we serve
5. Lively music, sometimes an alternative to organ music
6. Good church web-site
7. Give an invitation who have drifted from the church and others
8. Visitors may be nervous, do not know what church is about. We need to get alongside them and help them feel at ease
9. We need to know, as individuals, how to explain our faith

Other helpful things might be a -

- A. An individual invitation to a specific service
- B. Hold an afternoon service for those who have been bereaved
- C. Pre-Christmas have a quiet reflective service in preparation for Christmas
- D. Hold an alternative Lenten group
- E. On Mothering Sunday be inclusive to reach out to men.
- F. Hold a tea followed by Songs of Praise.
- G. Hold a rededication service for wedding anniversaries

Within the church we need to empower all our people to use their gifts, many people do not recognise their individual giftings. It is important to pray for all individuals and our church as a whole.

As you can see this session gave us much food for thought. We then broke for lunch and an opportunity to talk to people from other churches.

The session in the afternoon was entitled "Bridging the Gap between young people and the Church"

We looked at how we could we connect with young people outside the church, and help them find a Christian Faith. What are the needs of young people ? How could we respond?

I have to confess that I have very little experience of today's teenagers.

It was felt that it would need a long term strategy to get alongside them to build a relationship of trust and mutual respect, possibly we could provide a youth club/activities with games or free choice evenings.

This would take a lot of hands-on commitment for a lot of members of the church not just a few. We need to reach out to youngsters -they have little or no teaching of the Christian Faith. Our church needs them and they need us!!

After this session we returned to the church and sat in quiet reflection we filled in cards what we could do to serve our churches. These were handed in and will be returned to us at a later date., to remind us of our pledge. We then dispersed, this I found rather disappointing as I felt we should have had at least a short prayer and blessing.

Bobby Hitchin.



Festival of Light !! with skating !!

Lots of laughs

Ice Skating

Goring U R Church Shaftesbury Ave.

Half-term October 26 - 29

Tea, coffee, cake & Fair Trade Stall

**** Come and join in the fun ****

Wednesday :
2pm ~ 9pm with
Disco Skate 7 ~ 9

Thursday :
10am ~ 5pm

Tickets
£2.00 under 8yrs
£3.00 over 8 yrs
Disco £2.50 & £3.50

Entry Free



Friday :
2pm ~ 9pm with
Disco Skate 7 ~ 9

Saturday:
10pm ~ 5pm

Tickets
£2.00 under 8yrs
£3.00 over 8 yrs
Disco £2.50 & £3.50



Children's
Bible School

**Fair Trade Fashion Shows on Thursday and Saturday
International Dance Friday 7.30 pm**



St Barnabas
House
Licence
Class

STAND UP COMEDY

with
TONY VINO

VENUE:

Goring United
Reformed Church

DATE:

Monday 22nd October

TIME:

7.30pm.

**"A Great Show! The assured
Tony Vino copes with a mixed audience
really well"** - Kate Copstic, The Scotsman

"Comedy that's life affirming" - BBC1 Heaven & Earth Show

Booking line:
01903 696241

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



Each autumn a church in West Sussex hosts a Preparation Day to learn more of the following year's service. Goring URC is privileged to host this Day this year and it will take place on WEDNESDAY, 19TH OCTOBER. The theme of next year's service is 'Let Justice Prevail' and has been prepared by the women of Malaysia.



Malaysia is a country of contrasts – modern yet with traditional ways; with diverse cultures, religions and ethnic backgrounds. The theme echoes the present-day concerns of the unjust actions endured even today, especially by women who are still discriminated against. Voices for truth and justice have been silenced. Corruption and greed are threatening the way of truth. The women of Malaysia ask for mercy, forgiveness and justice as they consider these complex issues.

The Day begins from 10am with Registration and coffee and ends at 3pm. Our Minister, Rev. Andrew Sellwood will lead the opening devotions and Deacon Joy Barnes will present a Bible Study on the Bible passages used in the service. Mrs. Sylvia Parkington (West Sussex Conference Coordinator) will lead the Day and Eileen Rhodes, as National Committee member will present an illustrated background to the country and explain the service itself.

There is a charge of £3 for the day, to include morning and lunchtime tea and coffee and lunchtime soup. A sales table will have information leaflets, bookmarks and cards and the beautifully produced annual magazine 'Together in Prayer'.

The Day is usually attended by some 150 ladies, including some from beyond West Sussex and is a joyous occasion for Christian fellowship and worship.



If you would like to be a part of this please speak to Eileen Rhodes, Telephone 248263 or—

Email: eileenmrhodes@talktalk.net (don't forget the central 'm'!)

Westminster College

Today I was asked, "Where is Westminster College?"

Having just spent three days at conference there, I was able to quickly reply "in Cambridge - Madingley Road."

If you walk out of the gates of the college and cross the road to walk along Queen's Road you will soon find yourself on the footpath running parallel to the River Cam. Across the Cam you can see some of the University of Cambridge colleges which back onto the 'Backs' the name for the river just here. Trinity College comes first and then Clare College, King's college and it's fine Chapel, then Queen's College.

On my early morning walk this week I discovered that the leaves had begun to fall and I collected 2 beautiful unopened conker cases to examine with my grand daughter when I got home. The moorhens greeted me from amid the duck weed, and the ducks quacked a morning greeting as they paddled off up the stream.

So what of the college?

Westminster College: here is a piece from their web pages —

“a centre for learning within the United Reformed Church. As a re-

source to the national and local church and a full participant in the theological training of students within the Cambridge Theological Federation, Westminster is a place where all those in ministry can study and deepen their faith. It is a place for refreshment and learning available to all of those involved in the life of the Church from many different traditions, people from other faiths and those with no faith commitment. It is a place of welcome, community and new vision where radical and provocative faith meets wonderful and risky living.”

Later on we find another piece:

“ Transforming Westminster ...

Westminster now needs to be updated if it is to continue to inspire its users, to welcome them and to provide what they need. What were once excellent facilities need to be renewed so that they can be excellent for today.

We need to make Westminster a place of art and music as well as books, a place of prayer and quiet as well as lively discussion. We want to welcome a much greater variety of people and groups; for short stays as well as long courses, for prayer

and reflection as much as study, for meeting and conversation as much as for learning.

We aim to start during the Summer of 2012 and complete all the work within about 18 months. Our prime aim is to improve the facilities for those we serve. At the same time, the Business Plan demonstrates that such a thorough make-over will also create an improved financial return.

These improvements will make a considerable difference to what the college has to offer to those who become residential students. Visitors to the College for a day course or for a short residential conference will also have a greatly enhanced experience.

Why does Westminster need to change?

Westminster has embraced General Assembly's challenge in 2006 not only to train students for ordination, but to make opportunities for all God's people to learn, reflect and pray together. In 2008 the Governors drew up a new Strategic Plan, which formed the basis of a physical plan to redevelop the College buildings for their new role. ”

Westminster College has mounted an appeal. We need to raise £7 million in order to complete the work. To date we have raised £2,035,788.

If you would like to make a donation to the appeal then you may download a gift form from www.westminster.cam.ac.uk/campaign/Donation.htm.

You do not need a form in order to make donations. Please consider gift aiding your donation and send your gift to –

The Campaign Office,
Westminster College,
Maddingley Road,
Cambridge, CB3 0AA

We all know at least one person who trained at Westminster College.... Rev Andrew Sellwood! You will probably know others too.

Others of us have used the college facilities from time to time, and have received great benefit.

Those of you who have access to the internet might like to see more about the college at –

www.westminster.cam.ac.uk

Hilary Redman

Big Society

I would hope all of us who make up God's church would like to be able to make a difference to our world to our community even in a small way. We must also remember that unity to this common cause is stronger than any petty division. Churches are striving to work together in this our generation more than at any other time in History. We are learning that denomination should make no difference as to who we are and what we want to achieve. At the same time the church should not divide itself from society.

Jesus was all about Big Society; community, empowerment acceptance and justice. The church has been doing this kind of thing for 2000 years since its very beginnings. It's only when individuals get a bit power crazed this model goes astray. It has to be admitted that at points in history the church has deserved a bad press. But the general overriding principal of the Christian movement is one of community and peace.

Remember that the second greatest commandment we have is to love our neighbours, meaning all people we share the planet with. As we embark on mission there is often a suspicion

held by non-Christians that the church has a hidden agenda to convert people to the faith. But actually our teaching says it's not us that does the converting but God himself. I can't make or even persuade any one to be a Christian; it is the Holy Spirit within that person who achieves that change.

The other comment is that you don't have to go to church to be a Christian; I have a real issue with that statement. OK you don't have to be a Christian to be a good person; there are thousands - millions of people out in the world doing good who are nothing whatsoever to do with the church. But to call yourself a Christian you have to be in some kind of community, in other words to be among a like-minded group of people. So we get right back to that concept of a community or society - the church - being united in faith claiming Jesus as Lord. You need to be with others for support and encouragement to share the joy and love you have discovered. But looking away from the church back into the world around us we see comparisons. Here is a quote from a secular mission statement

The Big Society is about helping people to come together to improve their own lives. It's about putting more power in people's hands – a massive transfer of power from Whitehall to local communities.

The Office for Civil Society, part of the Cabinet Office, works across government departments to translate the Big Society agenda into practical policies, provides support to voluntary and community

organisations and is responsible for delivering a number of key Big Society programmes.

Sounds good and it reminds us that through our combined actions and deeds we can change society at large and individual lives. All of us working together for a common purpose to bring about change, we may be driven by different motivations – politics, conscience, good will, love, compassion, faith of all kinds and none. It's a

responsibility and challenge we all take on as citizens of this planet. If a child cries in East Africa we hear it but maybe we chose not to listen. If we see a homeless person huddled in a shop door way look but not see.

Closer to home, how many people are there in our town who are lonely, frightened, misunderstood, hungry, victims of violence or addiction, silently suffering?

In our Nation, networks of neighbourhoods and community have greatly diminished, or so we are told. People have been found dead in their homes undiscovered for months. I am not saying we should be busy bodies and nosey parkers but a little more interest would be good. To be aware and accepting of others in our community is a responsibility, to be able to help is a privilege or as we say in church speak, a blessing.

The Traditional Church model is perhaps not a good example to reach out to people but there is an alternative; that is the fresh expressions movement. Simply put it is 'the church where people are'. Remember when we say church we are not talking about buildings but people. The church has recently been learning a hard lesson, for decades barriers have been put to protect what we have safe inside our well-defended churches. Notice how many

chapels and churches are built like fortresses psychologically hard to get into; worse for many people outside of church, hard to escape from.

So the church in the next decade is in line for some radical changes. But we need first to build relationships again within our community to overcome suspicion, 'them do good church folk just want to convert us with their brainwashing techniques'. 'There must be a catch why would they help

Continued, next page -

- Continued from previous page

me a so called sinner?' I am involved or have been involved with mission projects. Taking the church into the community and there is much suspicion and even anger towards the church.

In Goring we will have a festival of light in October, we put an artificial skating rink in the church. More than 1000 people came last year over the week. This year we also have a comedy weekend. The motive is to say hi to the community to say we like to have fun too. It has really opened up many people to the fact we are there for them. We run a messy church activity that provides fun and food for about 60 children and their carers, a place to go after school and let your hair down. The biggest advantage has been surprisingly for the parents to make new friends.

In St. Andrew's we have a business plan to open up as a drop in centre for lonely older people, so they can make friends and have a point in the week to look forward to. There is also a great deal of interest in the ROC (Redeeming our community) initiative exploring how we can work together to bring about a safer society.

I think we are coming to the realisation we need to work together - church and society - to share resources. The church has buildings and people unique resources to handle just about any eventuality.

So how do we go about creating community; firstly change people's view of church and by building relationships? We Christians need to ask again 'What would Jesus do?'

He mixed with all kinds of people, outcasts, those on the margins of society prostitutes, lepers, even tax collectors; he had no time for pious religious leaders.

We live in a fragile fragmented society. My prayer is that we can see ways of working together for the good of all. For justice and peace to restore hope where there is despair to be the light in a darkening world. AMEN

Andrew Sellwood

The Little Foxes

Take us the foxes, the little foxes that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes. (Song of Solomon 2:15)

It seems that foxes love to gnaw the branches of the vines, bite the bark, scratch and bare the roots, spoil the young shoots and even eat the grapes. The foxes were common in Judea and when the clusters of grapes were young and tender, that was when they did the most damage. "Take care of the vineyard: set the traps for the foxes, which are spoiling the vines; and destroy their young as far as possible."

On the whole, the foxes that frequent our garden do not chew any branches, but they dig for worms in the lawn, scout around for anything edible, including the hedgehogs if they are very hungry, despite the prickles; they steal plimsolls, sandals or boots put out to air or dry; and, if it is the vixen, before leaving, she will pee on the lawn.

The descendants of last year's slugs and snails are munching their way through what they fancy - the hedgehogs do not seem to be as hungry for them as in some years. The woodlice are doing their best to burrow into as many varieties of fruit and vegetables as they can. The Cabbage White butterflies seem to think I have planted my Purple Sprouting

Broccoli just for their pleasure and reproduction, and flutter and flirt and lay rafts of yellow eggs when I'm not looking. They have also told their cousins to come to this free green café, so they, too, are depositing eggs which have to be sought for daily and destroyed, or there will be only lacework leaves within a short time. Whitefly, greenfly and blackfly have to be watched for too, although the Ladybirds keep very busy eating them. The garden spiders do their best keeping down the flies on the fruit and some small caterpillars on the broccoli.

The pigeons are not as bad as I thought they might be, seeming to prefer the grass or something growing in the lawn. The pair of herring gulls which think I am obliged to give them breakfast, lunch and dinner stand on the shed roof at regular times calling 'please' in pitiful tones. If I have nothing for them, I am sometimes subjected to raucous abuse before they fly off. They have now introduced their big speckled baby to the Connelly Takeaway.

Numerous cats of the neighbourhood come scouting for newly turned earth, or to hide in the bushes to catch the birds. (There is a strong smell of mice in the overstuffed garage, to which they should pay attention).

Meanwhile, on the other side of the world, in California, Fiona has her gardening problems, too. The garden is not big, but she tries to grow as much as she can to have the pleasure of picking her own, but she was not always able to get plants to maturity, as the

gophers would tunnel along until they came to some tasty roots and then pull down the whole tomato plant into the hole and consume it. She has built a raised growing bed now which has wire netting buried along the whole of its length. The gophers are very frustrated and hungry this year, but the woodlice have taken over. The Amaranth seedlings disappeared one after another. On investigation, she found that where seed had been sown, the woodlice had made holes for their young mini-beasts to live and feed. There are also Potato Bugs, or Jerusalem crickets which can make themselves rather unpleasant with a foul or a nasty nip.

If at night, the dogs start barking and rush outside, then Fiona rushes outside too, as there might be a skunk visiting the garden. It does not tolerate silly dogs prancing around and barking at it and warns them to back off by hissing or growling and raising its tail. The dog often ignores this and keeps harassing the skunk, which then uses its defence mechanism which is the foulest smelling breath-stopping oily spray. The skunk can spray up to six times in succession. The spray in the eyes can be very painful and cause temporary blindness. The dog has to be bathed immediately as the whole house stinks!

One evening at twilight they wanted to get the cats in for the night. Mr. Big was already in, his bulky black furry body draped over the back of the couch. But Honeysuckle, the beautiful blue British Short Hair, who was being

difficult. Unusually, she was reluctant to come in and kept disappearing into the undergrowth on the mountainside. At bedtime, they gave up and hoped she would come in through the cat flap during the night. It was usually locked in order to keep out the raccoons, which used to come in and eat the cat food and explore the kitchen. Having eaten, they would wash their paws in the drinking water. They had kept to the garden looking for worms and insects, fruit and nuts, since the alert and noisy dogs came to live in the house.

The next morning, Honeysuckle was in and a big rat lying on the doorstep. Ah, so that was it! But that evening they had the same problem again. Darkness was falling and Honeysuckle had not come in – the hunting instinct had taken over. Food already on the plate was not so interesting as the thrill of the chase. They left her to her own devices.

Suddenly the dogs leapt up, barking and scratching at the door. They all went outside, but there was nothing to be seen, though the dogs were still excited and barking. No, nothing there. Come in. All became quiet.

Next morning, only the dogs and Mr. Big looking for their breakfast. The dogs go out and run around but sniffing and snuffing around a small area on the lawn. What is it? A gopher hole? Oh, no! A patch of blood with bluey grey fur and some yellowish grey hair. A coyote, also known as the American jackal or the prairie wolf, had taken Honeysuckle.

She had evidently put up a good fight, but with no chance of escape.

Two nights later, the dogs jumped up and ran outside, both barking furiously. Then, only one dog was barking. Thad and Fiona ran out. There was nothing to be seen, but a dragging noise. Thad followed the noise down the steep winding drive, still unable to see anything, but followed the dragging, shuffling noise up the hill and round the corner until almost at the main road when he caught up with a coyote dragging Flora, a 23lb dog, by her neck, just about to disappear into the bushes. Thad shouted and waved his arms and advanced menacingly and shouted again. Her throat was pierced and torn and bloody and the side of her body scraped and bare from being dragged so far up the road.

The coyote, being robbed of his family's dinner, stood glaring balefully at Thad. Eventually, tiring of the shouting and menaces, it turned tail and disappeared into the bushes.

Only after he had got home to tell the tale, did he realise that he had run all the way there and back in bare feet!

Flora had an unpleasant visit to the 24 hour vet and had stitches and antibiotic injections and was, for a few days, rather subdued. Soon, she was back to her usual inquisitive self and was soon flushing out and aggravating the sunbathing rattlesnakes when taken out for walks in the wild.

They keep a baseball bat near to hand now because Wil. E. Coyote will be planning his next move. There is much planning and cunning in his strategies. He will have calculated just how much succulent flesh is still running around in the house and garden and he will be looking for his next opportunity.

Here I intended to insert quotations from the Old and New Testament about 'Evening wolves', 'Ravens wolves' etc., and write about the evils and temptations which can come quietly and insidiously into our lives and ravage and destroy.

However, reading through this piece, I realised that I had written about the cycle of life and each 'pest' or 'predator' was merely seeking to reproduce itself and to feed its young by any means possible. Whatever your size, there is always something bigger to eat you. Sometimes this becomes inconvenient, not to say painful, to members of the human race, but they, in their own turn, destroy wild life habitats and the animals which live in them, and often inflict pain and misery on their own kind, even indulging in rape, pillage, war and mass murder.

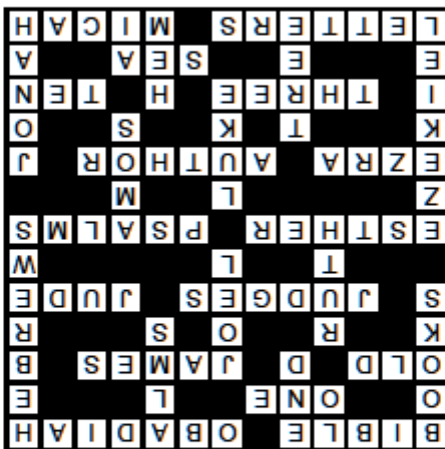
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins; for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And bring us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Mary Connelly.

Five More Sayings of Augustine

1. To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek him the greatest adventure; to find him, the greatest human achievement."
2. Right is right even if no one is doing it; wrong is wrong even if everyone is doing it. " I have read in Plato and Cicero sayings that are wise and very beautiful; but I have
3. Christ is not valued at all, unless he is valued above all."
4. God provides the wind, Man must raise the sail. "
5. Love is not breathlessness, it is not excitement, it is not the promulgation of promises of eternal passion. That is just being "in love"

Solution to the crossword
on page 10



Weekday Activities

Messy Church

Tuesday Fellowship

The Ark for Adults with Babies & Toddlers

Monthly Mid-week Holy Communion

Kestro (Stroke Club)

Choir Practice

Little Fishes Play Group

Bible Study Groups

Table Tennis

Games

First Monday in Month

Alternate Tuesday Afternoons

Thursday Mornings. School Term times

1st Thursday in month 10.30am

Friday Afternoons

Friday Evenings

Monday-Friday. School Term times

Various times & days

Tuesday & Friday Mornings

Alternate Monday Afternoons

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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 Susie Thomas (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. In 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 it was joined by the Churches of Christ in Great Britain and Ireland in 1981 and the 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 September 1961 when the congregation became too large to be accommodated in the church building that is now the hall. This first building was opened in 1948.

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

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



Goring United Reformed Church, Worthing, West Sussex.
www.gurc.org.uk



The CHRONICLE

Winter 2011/12

Jesus, the
Light of the World
has come.



GORING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

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

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

E-Mail: thesecretary@gurc.org.uk

Web site: www.gurc.org.uk

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 Telephone 01903 248259

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 37 The Grangeway, Rustington, Littlehampton, West Sussex. BN16 2QS
 Telephone: 01903 776226 E-Mail: pat@pathomson.fsnet.co.uk

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. 68 - No. 629 Winter 2011/12

Articles for The CHRONICLE

Closing date for the next CHRONICLE magazine is the 1 February 2012.

www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle



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Ruth & Mamy's Christmas Newsletter — Insert

From The Manse

We now enter into the month of December and the approach to Christmas known as Advent.

The word **Advent** means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. Thus, Advent is far more than simply marking a 2,000 year old event in history. I think that is what most non-Christians see Christmas as. But in reality it is celebrating a truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ whereby all of creation might be reconciled to God. That is a process in which we now participate, and the consummation of which we anticipate. Scripture readings for Advent will reflect this emphasis on the Second Advent, including themes of accountability for faithfulness at His coming, judgment on sin, and the hope of eternal life.

In this double focus on past and future, Advent also symbolizes the spiritual journey of individuals and a congregation, as we affirm that

Christ has come, that He is present in the world today, and that He will come again in power. That acknowledgment provides a basis for Kingdom ethics, for holy living arising from a profound sense that we live "between the times" and are called to be faithful stewards of what is entrusted to us as God's people.

So, as the church celebrates God's inbreaking into history in the Incarnation, and anticipates a future consummation to that history for which "all creation is groaning awaiting its redemption," it also confesses its own responsibility as a people commissioned to "love the Lord your God with all your heart" and to "love your neighbour as yourself."

At my first church in Leicester I discovered a new tradition. There at the beginning of Advent it was a time for the 'hanging of the greens' the church was comprehensively festooned with evergreen wreaths, boughs of trees, dried flowers and a huge real Christmas tree.

Interestingly my other church some six miles away in a different village saw these kinds of decorations as pagan, the putting up of a Christmas tree the ultimate act of desecration of the sanctuary. But in reality it was all innocent it was just to symbolize the new and everlasting life brought through Jesus. We had a special weekday service, in which the church was decorated and the Advent wreath put in place on the communion table. This service consisted of Scripture readings, along with an explanation of the various symbols as they are placed in the sanctuary. A local group of hand bell ringers enhanced (!) the service. One elderly member would bring a huge lump of granite to decorate the church no one actually knew why, perhaps just a very local tradition.

Throughout the Christian world there is much tradition that surrounds our season of Advent. Almost all churches will be lighting candles on an Advent wreath usually four red or pink or purple candles and a central white one. The four Sundays are themed with scripture readings generally in the following order but there is a deal of flexibility due to the liturgical year.

1 Hope (Expectation or prophecy) we hear the message of hope told to Abraham.

The remaining three candles of Advent may be associated with different aspects of the Advent story in different churches, or even in different years. Whatever sequence is used, the Scripture readings, prayers, lighting of the candles, the participation of worshipers in the service, all are geared to unfolding the story of redemption through God's grace in the Incarnation. We are also reminded to be alert and forward looking.

2 Peace We hear from Isaiah of one who will be born Prince of Peace.

3 Love John the Baptist spoke bravely that we should share what we have with others, treat each other kindly and show God's love.

4 Joy Mary was filled with Joy when she knew that she would become the mother of Jesus

Christmas day – The birth of Jesus

So as we prepare our Church our homes and our lives for the coming of the Lord may we all find hope, peace, love and joy at this season.

Yours in His service Andrew



Fellowship

On the first and third Tuesday afternoons of the month

Our first talk in September was given by Mr Keridge. He brought along a sample of his penny collection. It was an interesting talk, very entertaining and informative. He showed us some pennies that had been cut in half, or in fours, used for lower denominations than pennies - something new to learn all the time.

At another meeting we had an extremely inspiring talk by Mr John Kemish.

His subject was his life as a volunteer. The church he worships in is Bury Drive Methodist, and he first started his voluntary service by getting heavily involved with Youth work in the church and in the community. He was instrumental in setting up Fair Trade and in

1990 he helped set up the Worthing Night Centre. He was involved in Churches Together and the setting up of the centre for carers called "Cross Roads". Mr Kemish told us there are twenty two thousand volunteers in Worthing. For his services to voluntary work he was awarded an MBE last year, presented by Princess Ann. A truly thought provoking talk.

Another outstanding talk was given by our own Wilf Rhodes. He told us about the cruise he went on with Eileen, which had been arranged by Rev John Jennings "Following in the steps of St Paul". There were pictures and maps to accompany his talk and we found the afternoon fascinating and informative.

In between these talks we had 'in house' afternoons. Our last meeting before Christmas was given by our own Minister, Andrew, which was immensely intriguing and gave us plenty to think about over the Christmas period.

We start our meetings again in January on the 10th with a New Year Party. All are welcome.

Carole Culliss

Property Management



Those who came along to Church Meeting in November will know that we, the Church, are making arrangements to have the copper roof replaced with a modern material.

We are in the process of requesting estimates and trying to decide which material and contractor to use. Unfortunately the local authority requires us to submit an application to the Planning Office. Hopefully this will not cause too much of a problem!

The Property Management Group are also involved in drawing up a Health and Safety document which is to include the Fire Risk Assessment, which was completed 12 months or so ago.

About three dozen people sent in completed questionnaires which was held during September and October. The results are as follows :-

75% said that they would like more comfortable seating.

46% requested an improvement to the heating and/or add to the wall and window insulation. The ceiling will be insulated when the roof is replaced.

42% would like the sound system updated. The clarity of words on the screen could be improved by the addition of more blinds.

40% said that they would like to see the sanctuary used for more concerts etc. during the week, opening up the vestibule to make a larger more welcoming area. The refreshments area should be improved.

The November church meeting saw a presentation about a vision for the buildings and possible plans for the future. The group have tried to incorporate all the issues which have been raised in response to the questionnaire, in these plans.

If building it were to go ahead, the work would involve major changes to the Sanctuary, forming a balcony and opening up the vestibule into a more welcoming area.

During the month of January there will be a display in the church of these plans. These are not in any way laid in concrete — excuse the pun! - but it is the intention to use the plans, which are an idea only, as a basis of discussion.

The topic will be discussed fully at the Church Meeting on 26th January 2012, so please come along.

*Graham Redman
Property Management Group*

TABLE TENNIS CLUB



"We in the church table tennis club expect a very high standard of play from our members, whether they are playing at home or away. Some of us manage it better than others, but one of us, whilst on holiday, entered the competition laid on and came back to us triumphant - wearing his medal.

Congratulations to Jim Hunt, photo above.

When you consider the difficulties he has had over the last year or so, it is a great achievement. *Well done.*

Sheila Gooderham

Photos taken by Marianne Barber



Table Tennis Club's Evening meal at the North Star. -- Two photographs stitched together

A Poem by Marianne Barber —

Angel Visitors

Writing Christmas cards -
a pleasure or a daunting task?

Addresses to find in dog eared books,
listed under names and themes;
dancing, poetry, different clubs;
who by hand, who to send?

An organised approach required;
envelopes and cards line up equal size.
Impossible to cut down list, fifty nine - not finished.
Maybe I'll phone some dear old friends,
make amends for visits promised, yet not done -
see how the years have gone.

Talking on the telephone,
spirits lifted, stars shone.
Friends words like angels sang.
Such joy received when voices meet;
comfort and glad tidings ring;
a choir of angels were my friends,
glad tidings are our offerings.

Festival of Light 2011



Tony Vino

This October saw Goring URC host the Festival of Light for the second year running. An event designed to build relationships with the local community, the church was opened to all for the week long festival.

The event started on Monday 24th October with a clean comedy evening by Tony Vino. He raised a big laugh amongst the audience and brightened up a very wet and dreary day.

The Synthetic Ice Rink





Kave Lighting provided the lighting effects.

The main attraction of the week was a 9m x 8m synthetic ice skating rink. 675 skaters took to the 'ice', from age 2 - 70 and great fun was had by all. The rink was open for four days during the half term holiday, with two disco sessions on the Wednesday and Friday evenings.

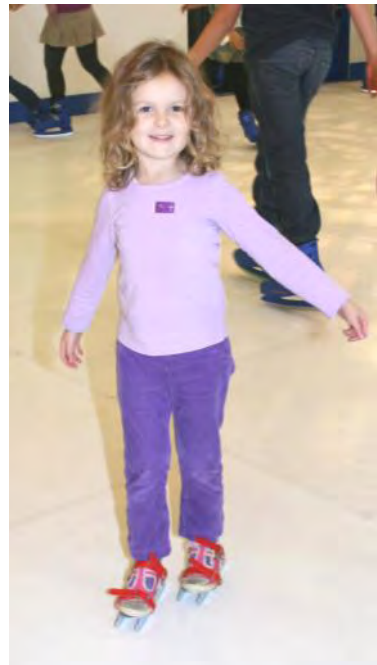
There was a display by Dance International Worthing on Friday evening and two Fair Trade Fashion Shows on Thursday and Saturday afternoons. These were great events, with the Fashion Shows being modelled by church members and volunteers from our local 6th Form College.

John Knight, the butchers in the Strand provided the prize, 'A platter of meat', for guessing the number of sausages.





Some faces you may recognise.







Visitors from Woking United Reformed Church

Valerie and her team worked tirelessly in the kitchen to provide soup and a roll for lunches and many, many drinks and cakes. For the children there were cupcakes decorated with fair trade smarties and ice cream!

The theme of this year's Festival was 'candles', with the church being decorated by some of the many groups who use our buildings, one local school, and the children from a local hospice. Each family went home with a pack containing a candle and prayer card, various leaflets and the all important pack of sweets for the children!

The event raised money for two local charities, but more importantly, as an outreach mission, Goring is already reaping the benefits, seeing much better relationships with its local community and four new families at Messy Church this month. Over a thousand people came through the doors, and the love of God was shown to all.

"A fab idea for the school holidays. All the children have had lots of fun" —
(member of the community).

Mary Redman

Doing it All

The days are getting shorter and so are our tempers as we get older, more tired, or ill, or all three. There is so much to do and so little time to do it. Where's my tick-off list of things to do? How many things ticked off today? Or not ticked off?

Some years ago my daughter gave me a book by Anne Wilson Schaef, called 'Meditations For Women Who Do Too Much.' A meditation for each day. I have dipped into it from time to time. Why, oh, why, has it taken me so long to look at it with eyes and mind wide open? It is a book of wisdom for women like me and my mother – and hers before her, if we ever had the time to read it! Time! I suppose that what one does with the time available is the most important thing.

There are clocks ticking, clocks striking and bells ringing. There are kettles boiling, toasters toasting, cookers cooking, recorders recording.....all with timers marking time. The moon waxes and the moon wanes, the tides ebb and the tides flow.

There are birthdays and anniversaries : one year ends and another begins. The seasons change as the year progresses; seeds are sown, plants grow, fruit and

vegetables are harvested, cooked, processed and preserved.

Someone has to do that hard work, every day, every week, throughout every year. On the other hand, there are books written, poetry composed, photographs taken, pictures painted, beautiful buildings, furniture, clothes, machines and artifacts designed and made. Someone had an idea, thought about it, designed and drew.

Jesus visited Bethany more than once and spent time at the house of Martha, Mary and Lazarus, dropping in for supper from time to time. We are told about one visit when Jesus turned up with his disciples. Mary sat at Jesus' feet, contrary to the current expectation of women's place in society, listening and learning with the disciples – the first of the feminist movement? She is thought to be the 'spiritual' one. Martha was in her usual place in the kitchen and found it difficult to cope with all the cooking and serving single-handed, while her sister sat doing nothing. She got tired and hot and bothered until she could bear it no longer and went in to the other room in a bit of a state. "Look here, Jesus, Mary hasn't done anything yet except sit there. She's just ignoring me when I call. I'm so tired!

Don't you care? Tell her to come and help me!"

"Oh, Martha," he replied, "you're overwrought, you're doing too much, try to relax! Mary has chosen the better part and I won't take it away from her."

Whew! Many generations of women have grimaced, ground their teeth, 'Humph!'ed, 'Pooh!'ed, or smiled in secret, contented satisfaction, according to their personal choice and involvement.

We are not told anything of what was said or done next. I have often wondered what if.....?

What if Martha had pulled up another stool, said "Enough! Enough! Budge up, Mary, make room for me, I'm sitting down, too!" and plonked herself next to Mary for the next couple of hours? We wonder whether there were any refreshments or supper for the hungry band of disciples, or Jesus himself for that matter!

I wonder if people had said to her, "Martha, you're doing a wonderful job, you do it so well! Or, "Oh, Martha, you do it so well, you're such an expert. Nobody can do it as well as you." Did she mutter "You too, could become good at it if you got a little experience!" When does the self-sacrificing multi-tasking change from enjoyment and fulfilment to drudgery and resentment?

My grand-daughter, when very much younger, once said to me – about the washing-up, I think,

" Oh, Grandma, come in here with us. If you leave it long enough someone else will do it!"

Unfortunately, that has not yet happened, however long I leave it, and, I suspect, neither has it for her now that she has her own house. There is no Fairy Godmother. There is no Magic Wand.

However, someone else will *have* to do it if you are not there.

I remember when one of the teachers at our Grammar School retired. He had done the time-tabling for the whole school; the ordering, receiving, checking, storing and issuing textbooks and stationery: registers, exercise books (you didn't get a new one until the last half page had been filled), pencils and pens, black ink, red ink, etc. etc.

He was also the excellent teacher of History throughout the school, together with Scripture (Religious Education). Two days after he retired, he had a stroke, was bed ridden for a year and died without reading the books he had been gathering for his reading retirement.

It took three others to take on the work he used to do single-handed.

I found a quote from Golda Meir, the fourth Prime Minister of the State of Israel. She had been Ambassador to

Moscow, Labour Minister and Foreign Minister and worked hard through a taxing Premiership and illness, dying from cancer in 1980 at the age of 80. She was a very important woman in international affairs for nearly 20 years. At some low point in her career, she said, "If you knew how often I say to myself: to hell with everything, to hell with everybody, I've done my share. Let the others do theirs now, enough, enough, enough."

My daughters have a Martha element, but I'm glad to say the Mary side is strong enough for a good balance.



Mary made this jewellery Christmas Tree (13"x17"). Now Martha has to catch up on the household chores!

What New Year resolutions shall I make? The same ones as last year that I didn't follow up? Away with the gardening, digging, growing, watering, spraying, tying up, picking, drying, processing, freezing, jamming, pickling, chutneying! Away with the cake, biscuit and sweet making! 'Yes Mum,' my children say, 'We've heard that before.' And they continue, with my friends and acquaintances, to enjoy the fruit of my labours. But there are other things I want to do before it is too late. I have paints, paper and picture frames waiting for my attention; string and buttons, lace and jewelry, still wait to be made into works of art. There are poems and articles yet to be written.

Janus, the Roman God of Gates and Doors had the first of January dedicated to him, allowing exits and entrances and new beginnings. He was a two-faced god, looking backwards, but also looking forwards. We can look back and learn, not look back and wish. We can look forward and do, or not do, because time is precious. When it's gone, it's gone!

Lord, give me the strength to keep going and do the many tasks to be done each day, but recognise my limits; the inspiration and ability to create things of beauty and loveliness with no limits; let my Martha and my Mary combine to acknowledge my past and be my future self.

*Mary Connelly,
December 2011.*

Janet Dean's Hobby - Cross Stitching

I have enjoyed this hobby for the past four years and it is very satisfying to be able to complete something from a chart.



Now the reason I enjoy this fascinating hobby:—

First of all you can be quite versatile with it because you can buy cards which are folded into three, and one 3rd has an aperture in it. You can stitch a Christmas design or one for special birthdays and anniversaries and the like, and when you have finished the cross-stitching you place the finished work so that the design can be seen through the aperture. Sealing fold number 2 so that it is like a card and then add your own greetings. I made a Christmas and a quick Fathers day card for my Dad using that method of cross-stitching. It is useful as a personal card or gift .

Another side of cross-stitching I enjoy is that you can make pictures and that has been described as 'art with a needle.' I am working towards more landscape pictures and you can get cross-stitching charts of old masters such as Constable and I have even seen one of the Davinci Last Supper. There was a lot of controversy a few years ago called the Davinci code. They are more expensive especially in kit form or, as I said, you can just buy the chart. You need the rest of the materials so it is still expensive. I have done a rabbit in a field and I love that one. I have framed it and it hangs on my bedroom wall. Now as the photo to the left shows, I am doing my second

big project a Border Collie Dog for my sister and her family, in honour of their two lovely dogs who had to be put to sleep through age - so I was pleased to get that chart.

And finally you can do samplers. As yet I haven't done one of those. Again you can do those from charts for a new baby or for weddings and special anniversaries.

I will explain about the charts. The design is set on graph paper and each square represents a block on the fabric. You are told quite clearly what shade of stranded cotton to purchase, and they have the number of the shade beside the chart so you can purchase the corresponding shade of cotton - so you end up with the correct colours.

The next thing you have to do with the said chart is to look at the symbols on the chart and compare them with the cotton shade numbers at the side of the design. If you can count then you can do cross-stitching but it takes concentration and if you don't make a mistake with the counting then your design emerges onto the fabric as you go along.

Well I hope you enjoy reading about my hobby as much as I have enjoyed telling you about it.

God bless you all. Janet Dean

Do you have an interesting hobby or past-time that you would like to write about? - or maybe you have been on a holiday or visited somewhere which others will find interesting to read. Please write in. Editor

Messy Church at Goring URC

Picture the scene It's 3 pm on Monday. I arrive in the church car park and it seems quiet. But as I make my way into the church hall, I find a handful of leaders busy preparing for the evening ahead. Some are in the kitchen preparing Bolognese. Some are setting out craft activities on tables around the hall.

The leader has prepared the visual aids for the bible story and reminds everyone supervising crafts that the theme is Jesus Light of the World. It's the end of a week of activities for the community, and many families have been invited to try out Messy Church. Everyone waits for the first arrivals.

The sound of children's voices greets my ears, as the first families arrive, bringing their children at the end of the school day. They are welcomed at the door, and gather for drinks & healthy fruit snacks. As people arrive, there are a few small table top games for children to play, as well

as paper and pencils for drawing, some parents help their children, while others chat over a cup of tea. As more families arrive, the noise levels rise!

Most of the children are under 7's with one or two exceptions. Most of the parents are mums, but its encouraging seeing a couple of dads too. Some families are here for the first time thanks to invitations from friends, or invitations given during the previous week's community activities.

Its 4pm and time for everyone to move into the main hall for creative activities. The children move around at their own pace, curious & expectant. The crafts include brightly coloured sunrise collages, making cards, drawing images of Jesus, planting mustard & cress in the shape of a heart and, most exciting of all, making chocolate crispy cakes.

As parents help their children, there is time for Messy Church leaders to

chat with them all. Some of the crafts help to start conversations about Jesus, others are just good fun!

At 5pm, one of the Messy Church Leaders starts clapping rhythmically. This is the sign for everyone to finish their activities and gather in the next room. Now, it is time to sing & dance, to listen to a bible story, and to be still and pray [just for a moment anyway!]. The children crowd round to see the visual aids as the story unfolds of Jesus the Light of the World. The parents sit back and watch.

After all the activity, it's time for tea. We move back into the hall, where tables have been cleared of craft and set with cutlery & cups. A simple but tasty meal of pasta & Bolognese is served, followed by cakes or ice cream! Children & parents enjoy their food together, chatting away in a noisy but relaxed atmosphere. The minister mixes in easily

along with the Messy Church leaders, chatting & listening. There is a real sense of community. A few families here have grown up within Goring URC, a few are also involved with other local churches, but many are experiencing church for the first time through Messy Church. One parent is moved almost to tears by the welcome she and her family have received.

As I reflected on this experience of Messy Church, I realise I have seen signs of God at work through the body of Christ, the church: a genuine welcome to all, children & adults, newcomers and old hands, (and visitors like me!) creativity and care in the colourful and well kept displays; a gathering with plenty of time and space for children to be children (and parents to be relaxed) and to experience and explore Christian faith; a sense of community which is encouraging families to return again and again; individuals encountering the reality of God's love

for them; a team of Christian people, some younger, some much older, but all working together each doing what they can to enable Messy Church.

This is extremely encouraging though the leaders here would be the first to say they still have lots to learn.

Messy Church is certainly proving to be an effective way of drawing families together who are not against church in itself, but find the formality of many church gatherings difficult or off-putting (especially for children.) And as the minister of Goring URC was quick to say, he is not trying to get these families to join the existing Sunday congregation, because Messy Church is ... church!

Nick White
Children's & Youth
Development Officer

Articles for The CHRONICLE - Spring edition

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

E-Mail to chronicle@gurc.org.uk.

Via the website - www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle

By post to Graham Redman, 5 Salvington Hill, BN13 3AT

The last day for the Spring Chronicle is 1 February 2012
The Chronicle is also on line at www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle

A CHRISTMAS CAROL QUIZ

1. Which Christmas carol has been voted the most popular one of all?

And now, which carols can you find the following lines or phrases?

2. Therefore Christian men rejoice
3. .. why should men on earth be so sad.
4. sharp as any thorn
5. stable place sufficed
6. .. the incarnate Deity
7. Brighter visions beam afar
8. wise men saw a guiding star
9. ... the bells more loud and deep, God is not dead....
10. King and God and Sacrifice
11. Angel hosts, his praises sing
12. ... watch of wondering love

ANSWERS

If you need them!

1. *Silent Night. The top three secular songs are: "Chestnuts roasting on an open fire..."; "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," and "Walking in a Winter Wonderland."*
2. *Good King Wenceslas*
3. *Sussex Carol. On Christmas night all Christians sing*
4. *The Holy and the Ivy*
5. *In the bleak mid winter*
6. *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*
7. *Angels from the Realms of Glory*
8. *The First Noel*
9. *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*
10. *We three Kings*
11. *Of the Father's love begotten*
12. *O little town of Bethlehem*

Weekday Activities

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Messy Church | First Monday in month |
| Fellowship | Second & Fourth 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 | Sunday Mornings 9.30am |
| Little Fishes Play Group | Monday-Friday. School Term times |
| Bible Study Groups | Various times & days |
| Table Tennis | Tuesday & Friday Mornings |
| Games | Alternate Monday Afternoons |

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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. In 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 it was joined by the Churches of Christ in Great Britain and Ireland in 1981 and the 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 September 1961 when the congregation became too large to be accommodated in the church building that is now the hall. This first building was 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

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