

The CHRONICLE ARCHIVES

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



The CHRONICLE

Spring 2015

The Magazine of Goring United Reformed Church



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

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 in the Harris Room

The CHRONICLE

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Spring 2015

Front Cover

Spring is here! Snowdrops in Findon Parish Church graveyard early in March

Summer magazine.

Articles are wanted for the next, '75th anniversary' edition of the Chronicle. Please can you write something about your time here in Goring? How, why and when did you come to Goring and to this Church. How about your memories? - can you write something about these? Please

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See our website and at back of church.
- Fully searchable Church Meeting minutes also on our website.



From the Minister's Desk

Rev Andrew Sellwood

For Christians, Lent is a time to prepare for Easter and to think about their relationship with God. It represents the 40 days when Jesus was tempted by the Devil in the desert. We are told during this time he didn't eat or drink anything. Because of this, some Christians refrain from eating certain foods or 'fast' for Lent. Some take fasting to the extreme, but for others, they just give up luxury food like chocolate or cream cakes! The Eastern Orthodox Church refers to Lent as 'The Great Fast'. Where do we find out about the origins of the tradition of Lent? A reading of the gospel accounts will help guide us.

"And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit for forty days in the wilderness, tempted by the devil. He ate nothing in those days; and when they were ended, he was hungry" (Luke, Chapter 4, verses 1-2). We see from scripture that Jesus was led by the spirit to spend 40 days and nights in the Judean wilderness. Notice when this took place it was just after His Baptism. This was a great highlight in his life, the Holy Spirit had descended upon Him and the voice of His heavenly father was heard to affirm Him in His forthcoming ministry. He was on a spiritual high point thus he was prepared for what was to come next. Whilst in this desolate place He spent time in solitude praying and fasting. This wilderness was full of dangers for anyone who ventured in it for long. Scorching heat by day and extreme cold by night, danger from wild animals plus the absence of food and water.

The wilderness experience crops up several times in scripture.

From the Minister's Study

When the Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt, they wandered 40 years in the wilderness.

This was seen as a time of purification and preparation for entry into the Promised Land.

Moses went to the mountain of the Lord in the Sinai wilderness and stayed there for 40 days and nights in prayer and fasting. Elijah, after he was fed with bread from heaven, journeyed through the wilderness without any food for 40 days to the mountain of God. Jesus was without any food in the wilderness for 40 days to prepare himself for the mission that the Father had sent Him to accomplish.

Temptation is a real problem for us. Jesus was to be no exception to this pattern of testing. When the Devil tempts Jesus he replies with the words of Scripture, quoting three times from Deuteronomy. Where did Jesus find the strength to survive the desert's harsh conditions and the tempter's seduction? He fed on God's word and found strength in doing his Father's will. Satan will surely tempt us and he will try his best to get us to choose our will over God's will. If he can't make us renounce our faith, he will then try to get us to make choices that will lead us, little by little, away from what God wants for us. Jesus was tempted like us and He overcame temptation not by his own human effort but by the grace and strength, which his Father gave to him.

As we have established, Jesus was alone in the wilderness so how do we get this event recorded in the gospel? It is evident that this experience was important for the disciples to understand, so Jesus must have told them. He also wanted us to receive this teaching so we could know how to resist temptation by His example. As we have seen, the Biblical wilderness is a place of testing, encounter, and renewal. I hope this Lenten season will



Messy Church here at Goring

It was with regret, that Bett and I, following much prayer and discussion, made the decision that I announced to Church Meeting in January 2015 that our March Messy Church would be our last; for a number of reasons.

This has been our Messy journey: back in the summer of 2009 four of us went to a "Messy Fiesta" at Christ Church, Chichester at the invitation of Jon Baker, the Youth Worker there. A "Messy Fiesta" is a training day for those already engaged in Messy Church and those interested in learning about Messy Church, a "Fresh Expression" of Church; this fiesta was led by Lucy Moore, founder of Messy Church. We learnt that the principles of Messy Church are: to :-

- *provide an opportunity for people of all ages to worship together.*
- *help people of all ages feel that they belong in church and to each other.*
- *help people have fun together.*
- *give people a chance to express their God given creativity.*
- *invite people into a Christian community.*
- *introduce people to Jesus through hospitality, friendship, stories and worship.*

We came away from the day, having experienced Messy Church first hand, very excited and after gaining permission from Church Meeting, the first Messy Church was held at Goring URC on Monday 7th December 2009. Many friends from St Andrew's, Rustington came along to help and find out if this was something they could host. Initially Messy Church was held about every six weeks, but from September 2011 we have met monthly except when there is a Bank Holiday. There have been forty seven Messy Church's over the five and a quarter years with an average of 25 children together coming with their parents and careers on each occasion. The smallest number of children has been ten, on a very snowy and icy Monday in January 2010 and the

 From the Minister's Study

maximum number has been 38 once in April 2012 and then again in December of the same year. We never really tried advertising,

Susanna has managed to get it in the Parish Pump in the *Worthing Herald* on a number of occasions, but as you can see from the numbers of our Messy congregation we haven't really needed to. Posters and fliers around the church and given out to Little Fishes and Junior Church have been enough.

The number of people on the Messy Church team has also varied and the team members have changed as the years have gone by, at times boosted by Nick White, then Synod Youth and Children's Development Officer, also by his assistant Kirsty and her husband, a youth worker at a church in the Medway Towns and a far more local URC minister, wanting to know what Messy Church is all about. Most of our team members have been stalwarts attending every one wherever possible and others coming along when they could or when called upon for help.

Providing a hot meal is part of the hospitality of Messy Church and not knowing how many people will come or whether they will have any allergies just added to challenge! We have generally catered for around fifty to sixty, and on one or two occasions the food has had to be eked out. Finding meals that are easy to prepare, nutritious and varied has been quite a headache and the favourites have been our vegetable pasta bake and fish

fingers and tinned spaghetti, the latter by far the easiest. All I can say "is thank goodness for the Cash and Carry!" Getting through five kilos of tinned tomatoes, baked beans or tinned spaghetti in one meal makes for some shopping trip otherwise!

Why, then, I hear you ask, is Messy Church closing when it appears to have been so successful over the years? Years is the answer, the average age of our congregation has gone down, making it difficult to find crafts for young children that keep older ones engaged and *visa versa*. Five years has been added to the team members and the team has dwindled over that time to a much less than optimal number and Bett and I thank each and every one of you who have been on the team, whether regularly and casually over the last five years and hope that you have enjoyed it every bit as much as we have. I know that the members of our congregation have enjoyed it and one Mum on her way out yesterday said to me, "What a shame we only found you in December". I pray that all who have come through our doors have felt the love in Jesus through us and have learnt something of His love for them. God has truly blessed me through Messy Church and I pray that many others have been as blessed as I have.

I thank you all for your prayers of support and I ask you all to continue in your prayers for our Church's work for the children of our local community.

The church is a living organism and as

75th Anniversary of this Church

4th August 2015

Over the last year or so, we have been looking into The CHRONICLE archives and printing highlights from the years since 1940.

In this issue we look at 70 years ago in 1945 -

THE ELM GROVE CHRONICLE: Goring Congregational Church

Minister: Rev F J H Humphrey DSO

Church Secretaries: Mr A J Rule and Miss Handford (Corresponding Sec)

Church Treasurer: Mr E W J West

Minister's Message: At Christmastime we sent a letter of greeting and good wishes to the men in the forces whose names are on our Roll of Honour. We told them of our remembrance in prayer at our monthly Communion Service. Replies have been received, and here are quotations from two of them.

1. From Paymaster Commander Maurice Knott RK. "It was a delightful thought sending me the good wishes of you all from Goring Congregational Church, and I do appreciate all that was behind your note. It is the priceless link of the home, and all that it means which keeps so many to their ideals."
2. From the Rev J R Wiseman, Chaplain RAF. "Thank you very much for the letter of Christmas good wishes. I very much appreciate the thought as you scarcely know me, though you know my parents. I have been very glad to hear how well the work is going at Goring, and send you my very best wishes.

Church Finances: Our Treasurer's Financial Statement for the past year is

The local church here in Goring - 75th Anniversary

encouraging. Offertories and freewill contributions totalled £437.13. 5 [*£16830.00 in today's money*], and the total sum raised for the LMS amounted to over £37.00.00 [*£1500 .00 today*]

Site of Proposed New Church: Barrington Road, Shaftesbury Avenue, West Wortling. Contributions toward the Building Fund will be gratefully received by the Church Treasurer. Special Collecting Boxes can still be obtained by those who are willing to help. Ask for a little "Church" money-box, and pray that guidance and direction may be given to those who have the planning of the building scheme.

Ladies Working Party: The annual business Meeting was held on October 2nd, Mrs Humphrey presiding, and it was decided to continue to work for the Army of Occupation. We are now in our fifth year of meeting, and the membership totals fifty.

Our New Church, (The now Church Hall): The possibility of soon having our Church building is still a matter of hope. It is very difficult to get any reliable information as to when the promised priority for churches will operate. That there is a great need for houses no one will deny, and the provision of them must undoubtedly have first place. But the dwellers in these new houses must not be left without a place of worship. The souls of men and women and children will not be satisfied unless there is at least the opportunity and spiritual fellowship. A plan for housing that excludes housing for the soul is not conducive to the best interests of our people, and it is to be hoped that the committees which are representing the Churches will press their claims with the utmost urgency.

Our Fifth Anniversary of the Church: On Sunday 5th August our minister will conduct both services, and during the same will receive the Collecting Boxes for the Church Building Fund. The result of this effort will be made known at the meetings on the following Wednesday.

75th Anniversary of this Church Celebration week-end

Friday 31 July – Sunday 2 August

Here is an outline of what is being planned

Friday 31 July:

*Set out displays in the morning
Fish and Chip Lunch for the workers.*

Saturday 1 August:

*Displays of flowers and archives in the church
Crafts and Hobbies
Bring and Share Lunch
Musical Event*

Sunday 2 August:

10.30am Celebration Service, led by Andrew Sellwood.

Caroline is arranging a banner making team. See her article - right.

It may seem early days yet, but the date is creeping up on us!

If you have any other ideas, please do speak to one of the Elders or mention it at a Church Meeting.

75th Anniversary of this Church

To celebrate this wonderful occasion we would like to make a banner that will reflect the past and the future, I would like help with this project so that it is ready for August. Help comes in different ways, I would like lots of small scraps of fabric in blues and greens, patterned or plain, for the background I feel it would be ideal if *everyone* could give me a small piece of anything at all. Men women and children!!! I would also like some help in putting it all together, this is open to anyone who can cut, tear, sew, embroider, glue, iron, write and make tea!!! *You* must come into one of these categories. Please give it your prayerful consideration.

We have a design planned, which reflects the Church being situated between the South Downs and the Sea. To enhance this I would like to include your favourite texts or words that have inspired your faith, 75 of them! They should be short, say up to 8 words or perhaps just the bible reference. It would be lovely if everyone could give one. There is a box at the back of the church to collect them also paper and pens!! Do it today!!

We are going to hold workshops from 10 –12 on 3 Saturdays in March 14th 21st and 28th and again for Saturdays in June to work together on this project. All are welcome to join us. Please come even if it's only to sit and watch the creativity to the glory of our Lord's work here!

Thank you, *Caroline Hibbs.*

Baptisms, Marriages & Death Records

To help celebrate our Anniversary, we are in the process of transcribing all Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths that have taken place here in this church over the last 75 years. It is a very long task and is likely to take a number of months, but if all goes to plan, we should finish the process before July.

Our records began in 1949 shortly after Goring Congregational Church Hall opened on 1st March of that year. I understand that there were some baptisms which took place before then, probably from 1940, when the Church was inaugurated, but unfortunately I have not been able to find any records.

Fortunately, the film showing records from 1949 to 1982 was located in West Sussex Record Office in Chichester and I was able to make electronic 'photo' copies to bring home. So far I have entered onto a database baptismal information from 1949 to about 1966. The actual Register Book has not been found, so presumably is lost — sad. The rest is still to be done together with the marriages and deaths, as I say a lengthy process.

Over the last few years there have been some enquiries from people who either think or know that they were christened in this Church. One recent enquiry was from somebody who was/is researching family history for a friend of his. Somebody else needed proof of a baptism for his priest as he was getting married in Belgium. It can be quite a time consuming process to search through registers, or to visit the record office to find the record — if indeed the event did take place here in Goring!

Hence the need to make the records fully searchable on our website. You may like to see what is being done here -

<http://www.gurc.org.uk/archives/>

Detailed information will be protected behind a password.

So, are you able to help please? If you have a computer and are fairly familiar with a spreadsheet like MS Excel then you may wish to help. I can let you know more if you wish. I will supply you with photocopies of certificates, and an Excel template in which to add the data. You can do as many or as few records as you like — so there is no pressure.

It will be great if you are able to lend a hand, and it is nowhere near as difficult as

Birthday Celebrations



Photo by Carol Webber

*Andrey Gerlach's 90th birthday cake and
Church celebration in November organized by Carol Webber !*

The local church here in Goring

Lest We Forget.

FOR THE FOLDER

*'The other night upon the stair
I met a man who wasn't there.
He wasn't there again today*

.....'

(William Hughes Mearns, 1876-1965)

I have recently been dipping into the archives of "The Chronicle" to re-read the articles I have written over the years, particularly the 'London Letters' which dealt with the making of our school garden on a derelict site in Kings Cross. Scrolling through the numerous copies, I have reaffirmed what I already remembered and have been reminded of things I had forgotten. There were names of children in my classes and

groups, incidents, people and special occasions for awards and rewards.

While I was looking for what I had written and what I had done, I had to search through each magazine and, in doing so I found in the copy for February 1974 a special note to the congregation. It stated that Rev. William Connelly had been invited to visit Goring and 'preach with a view' at the services on Sunday Feb. 17th, with a social gathering on Saturday, the day before, from 3 – 5pm to meet the man and his wife. There was a request for as many members as possible

to make every effort to attend the services and a special Church meeting on the Monday to discuss the call.

There were farewell messages to and from the Haywards on leaving Goring due to Wallis Hayward's retirement from the Ministry. William accepted the call on Monday 11th March.

The April issue includes William's acceptance of the call, despite his reluctance to leave Friary in West Bridgford, Nottingham. May saw the announcement that the Connelly family hoped to move to Goring about the 24th of

The local church here in Goring

July, with the Induction on Friday 2nd August and Mr. Connelly to preach his first sermon on 4th August 1974.

The July issue printed the first letter from the Minister, though written from Nottingham.

"My new friends, I have been spending the morning in prayer for our future life together and in preparation for the worship here next Sunday. But the telephone has reminded me of pastoral needs to be met, of a funeral, of a broken marriage, of my commitment to Samaritans and so on! Here I am in the Church office at Friary behaving as though I would be working here for the next 21 years instead of the next 21 days! I know you would not wish it otherwise. My heart is that of Pastor/ Evangelist, the church is open to all who seek help and I am glad to be of service to my Lord.

The next few weeks will see us working together in much the same way. To preach



Seated from left: Dorothy Turner, Colin Nodes, Ethel Dearsley,
 Standing from left: Ethel Gilbey, Dulcie Jenkins, ? ? ? and Rev William Connelly c1980

The local church here in Goring

good news to the poor, liberty to captives: to give sight to the blind, to heal the sick.' This is my task, and yours too and an open door into the Church, an availability to meet people both in the vestry and at home. This is how I see my job and gladly do it.

But you will teach me new ways and I'll be glad to learn – all real Christians are learners of Jesus: the time to worry is when we forget this, the time to be content is when He stabs us broad awake and calls us again to serve Him.

Remember and pray for Friary – they have given me so much over the years and I shall always remember them with love and thanksgiving. Blessings and love to you all, Bill Connolly. (Mary, Helen, Mark (James) and Fiona.)"

Ten years passed and almost every copy of the magazine held a 'letter from the vestry' or 'the minister's pen' which often could have been used as sermons. There were many



Ron Christopher

thanks for visits made and comfort given, there were services rendered, groups formed and groups strengthened, church meetings, social interaction and liaison with schools, chaplaincy work at Swandean, many other gatherings, and family news.

In 1984, William had four months' sabbatical in America, prompting dear Ron Christopher, the associate minister, who had kept up the good work in his absence, to write these words from the vestry in September: "I am sure you will be waiting to welcome our minister, William Connolly back from his leave of absence and holiday.

He has completed 10 years of a very active and far reaching ministry among us. Our church is alive and growing in strength and numbers among all ages. We pray that our minister, as he enters another decade of his ministry, may be granted strength of body, liveliness of mind and serenity of spirit. Let us all give him our loyal support in prayer and encouragement."

William came back refreshed and served faithfully in Goring United Reformed

The local church here in Goring

Mary & William [Bill] Connelly 18 November 2007

Church until 1991, still visiting, still working in the community, still reading in depth and preaching sermons of worth.

In the decade following his retirement he completed his Manchester

Articles for the Summer ^{ANNIVERSARY} edition of The CHRONICLE

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

- 1. E-Mail to chronicle@gurc.org.uk*
- 2. or by post to Graham Redman
5 Saltrington Hill, Worthing, West Sussex. BN13 3AT*

The last day for Summer Chronicle articles is 1 May 2015

Please help to save our printing costs by viewing The Chronicle if you can, on-line. www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle-online

Living Water - Unless You're Palestinian

This article was written by the Windermere Centre Director, Lawrence Moore, following his leading a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in October 2014- Wilfred Rhodes

Jesus likened himself to bread and water - the staples of life. That's in John's gospel, where John presents Jesus not simply as the giver of life but the Author of Life. Jesus takes the staples of life in order to illustrate the gift of Life in all its abundance that he brings (John 10:10). Jesus is never concerned with anything less than life (survival) but yearns for us to discover the "something more" - the very Life of God that ought to be our dally experience.

It's not like that, of course. The yawning chasm between the haves and have-nots on our planet extends to the very staples of life. We know that. We're a church that cares and makes ourselves aware. We know that vast swathes of the planet don't have enough food to-eat, let alone throwaway because they're stuffed! And we know that clean, drinkable water is a distant dream for millions in rural villages, let alone being able to turn on a tap whenever they need to.

What was profoundly, horrifyingly shocking, though, was to discover how water is deliberately being used as a weapon of war and oppression in the West Bank. Revd Brian Jolly and I took a group to Palestine and Israel last month to follow in the footsteps of the radical Jesus - the Jesus who got himself crucified as a religious heretic and a Roman political criminal. We were reading the stories of Jesus, recognizing that they were texts written in the context of the Roman occupation. At the same time, we were meeting our brothers and sisters from the indigenous Christian Church in Palestine and learning what life was like for them under the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Palestinian territories.

We met Mohammed, whose home had been destroyed that same morning by the Israeli soldiers who had made a point of coming at 5am so that the terrified children had been forced to witness the event. We met some of the inhabitants of Aida Refugee Camp in Bethlehem, and were told how the women slept fully clothed because the army regularly invaded their homes at night either on training exercises or for "reasons of security", and how the children suffered severe trauma so that they wet their beds well into their teens. We saw the school, surrounded by high walls and barbed wire, with the gates marked by bullet holes from the Israeli

watchtower on the separation wall at the end of the street.

We listened to harrowing tales of beatings, intimidation and humiliation at the checkpoints, of homes and businesses broken into and taken over by Israeli settlers who were supported by the army, and family land stolen.

Somehow, though, what got to us most was the way in which water is used as an instrument of subjugation and military strategy. Sister Martha, the feisty, faithful principal of the Russian Orthodox school in Bethany, pointed out the black storage tanks that adorn the roof of every Palestinian home. That's because Palestinian towns and cities get water only twice a week - theoretically. Much of the time there are no resupplies. In the summer, particularly, it can be 2 months before the water is turned on again for just 24 hours.

She told us, "We do our cooking using bottled water, use disposable plates for eating and we can send our laundry and live-in students to the monastery in Jerusalem for a wash. But the stink of the toilets remains a problem - we can't just stop going."

Ali told us about the problems faced by farmers: they are not allowed irrigation systems. Their farmhouses do not have running water. They are forbidden by law from digging wells without permission (no permission is ever given to dig wells) and from collecting rainwater. Ali had Roman cisterns on his farm: they were destroyed by the Israeli army. Every olive tree, vine and date plant on his farm has been planted and watered by hand.

Water is not considered a "natural resource". Its collection and distribution is tightly controlled by the Israelis, who allocate 1/3 of the supply to the 1.7 million residents of the West Bank and Gaza, and 2/3 to the 700,000 Jewish settlers who live on confiscated Palestinian land. We visited Ma'ale Adumin, a settler city in East Jerusalem, fresh from a Palestinian farm. It has two municipal swimming pools, fountains, a water park, and, because it was the weekend, the residents were out watering their lawns and washing their cars.

John tells the story of a Samaritan woman at a well who gave Jesus a drink of water (John 4). Wherever we went, we were given water, Arab coffee and tea. Families fed and watered 17 of us at a time. We used their loaves. And when we worried about how much of their precious water we were consuming, we were told it was a pleasure to be able to offer us hospitality. When we asked what they wanted of us in return, they said to us, "Tell our stories when you get home".

We went to homes where water is made scarce to oppress the people, and received

Poems by Marianne Barber

Angel Traces

In the front pew a girl sat,
her hair dark golden, other worldly
like a mermaid or player from
Midsummer Night's Dream.

A friend approached to thank me,
but in that split second I also received
a volume of something else
unbeknown to her.

Another said 'hello' with gusto
and again it was there,
the same invisible
undefinable essence.

The golden hair has now disappeared

The Victorian Pansy

Beguilingly smiling
underneath bow brim
of velvety bonnet
and black sweeping lashes,
the purple pansy
paints on beauty spots
and powders,
wraps round her leaves
and shivers.
Too early she wears her
spring ensemble
of two-toned violet and jet.

The Hymn From Under The Stairs

Margaret Clark, a member at St Andrew's Rustington passed the following article on to me for printing in the Chronicle. She told me that her grandparents and parents were married in St Clements Congregational Church, Ipswich. Apparently, it is still Congregational!

A much loved hymn in various hymn books of many denominations is 'Have Faith in God my Heart' which was first published in Congregation Praise in 1951.

The hymn's composer, Rev Bryn Rees wrote a letter in 1972 to a friend of the Fisher family, explaining the very unusual circumstances in which the hymn was written. John Fisher is the son of Rev Keith Fisher and brother of Rev Mark Fisher.

Bryn Rees was at St Clements, Ipswich, during World War II and a great favourite of Margaret's grandparents. Margaret can remember Bryn in the 1950s when he visited the

The local church here in Goring

church as a guest preacher.

This what Bryn says:-

“Have faith in God was written during an air raid one night in Ipswich. We had no air-raid shelter at the manse, the authorities had run out of them or something and Morfydd and I and the dog (a Welsh Terrier of course) were huddled under the stairs. ‘Have faith in God’ has always been a favourite text - you know how some texts seem to us in a special way - and, not surprisingly, it was running through my mind on that particular night. I suppose I might say it was my air-raid shelter, as it has been my shelter and protection in all sorts of circumstances, and as I thought about these words of Jesus, this hymn came clear in my mind.

I had to get it down on paper, but God really does choose some odd moments, don't you agree? During a lull in the raid I went into the blacked-out breakfast room, switched on the light and wrote down the first verse. Then I had to get back under the stairs (I'm no hero). This undignified procedure was repeated - I forget how many times - until the hymn was complete. It was an extraordinary business really, like taking down dictation, and from that moment the hymn seemed to have a life of its own. Kenneth Parry, editor of Congregational Praise, visited Ipswich shortly after this, and I was telling him about the incident, and he said he would like to see the hymn.

He put it in Congregational Praise and since then it has travelled the world, and to my certain knowledge is in hymnbooks of all sorts of denominations, in this country, America, Australia etc.— Praise be it has even been translated into Welsh! The greatest joy and reward for me is to know the hymn is being sung, and to receive messages from all over the world from people who have found through this little hymn their own place of healing, shelter and courage for living in the words of Jesus.

Congregational Praise No. 422

1. Have faith in God, my heart:
Trust and be unafraid;
God will fulfil in every part
Each promise He has made.

2. Have faith in God, my mind;
Although Your light burns low,

3. Have faith in God, my soul;
His cross for ever stands;
And neither life nor death can pluck
His children from His hands.

4. Lord Jesus make me whole;
Grant me no resting place,
until I rest, heart, mind and soul
The captive of your grace.

Tuesday Fellowship

We ended our Autumn session before Christmas with a visit from Andrew. When I arrived for this afternoon there was a photo of the poppies at the Tower of London on the laptop and I thought, "it's Christmas, not Remembrance. We have had, that I am sure. However when Andrew got underway it became clear and I stopped being confused. He spoke about Christmas during World War I. He had a great uncle who fought in that war so had gained a lot of knowledge of it from him. What was nice was the fact that there was a ceasefire from both sides during the Christmas of 1914 and they all sang Silent night in both German and English and exchanged cards and spoke to one another and all was friendly. Gifts came in 1915. The menu for officers went like this. To start with, Ox tail soup, then the fish course, lamb the main course followed by Christmas pudding or sorbet, then truffles and coffee. Fine dining at it's best eh? The privates had a meagre fare compared to that - 'Joe's caff' for them.

Andrew then showed us a box his great uncle had as a gift which held stuff for men. The tango was the dance of the day. Andrew then said we should all pray for peace like that for all the time. A very interesting afternoon—thank you Andrew.

We started the New year with a tea and

party but I couldn't go.

The next time I went we had another visit from Tony Trevithick who continued his life journey from Penzance to Paddington.

We went to Chippenham. There we were reminded that very much like weaving we should be joined together just like the different threads are joined together on a weaving loom. It is the home of Thomas Grey.

From there we went to Swindon. Tony told us it is a caring community and we were reminded how Jesus cared for EVERYBODY because they matter to Him and we must do so too. Swindon is a 19th century town.

From Swindon we went to Didcot which is an important town as it is very central. Wherever you are in Didcot you can easily get to all parts of the UK because of that Tony spoke about the power of God. We ended the afternoon in Reading where Henry I is buried.

It is the home of Huntley and Palmer' biscuits. There is a mixture of huge wealth with huge poverty. Here we are reminded that we should love one another whatever. An interesting afternoon and Tony will, I am sure, be asked to come back and complete the journey.

Well that is what we have done in the Tuesday Fellowship so far.

God bless you all. Janet Dean

Weekday Activities

Tuesday Fellowship	2nd and 4th Tuesday Afternoons
The Ark for Adults with Babies & Toddlers	Thursday Mornings. School Term times
Kestro (Stroke Club)	Friday Afternoons
Little Fishes Play Group	Monday-Friday. School Term times
Bible Study Groups	Various times & days

Publication Team :-

Proof Reading: Mrs Jane Bond and Mrs Denise Woods

Mailing Secretary & Treasurer: Mrs Susie Thomas

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The Chronicle costs approximately £1.50 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-online

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 Reformed Association of 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

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



Anniversary Edition of
The
CHRONICLE

Summer 2015

The Magazine of Goring United Reformed Church



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

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 in the Harris Room

The CHRONICLE

Vol. 72 - No. 642

Summer 2015

Front Cover

Watercolour painting by Graham Redman presented to Robin Bradley on the occasion of her move to Wales in 2006.



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From the Editor

Our minister Rev Andrew Sellwood has very recently completed his three months sabbatical - no it's not been a time of relaxation for him, but more of a time for study away from his local Church. This has been during the time the Chronicle was in production, so unfortunately we do not have a message from him this quarter.

We have missed you Andrew.

However, there are plenty of other articles to fill the magazine and I hope that you will find the next 40 or so pages an interesting read.

We welcomed Andrew back to his study on 20 July so we should see him returning to lead worship on Sunday evening 26 July. We also look forward, Andrew, to your leading our special celebration service on Sunday 2 August and of course for the months following.

Please remember that during August there are no evening services. This is our normal pattern for this time of the year.

Graham Redman

75th Anniversary of this Church Celebration week-end

Friday 31 July – Sunday 2 August

Programme of Events:

Friday 31 July: 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Set out displays in morning. Fish and Chip Lunch for workers.
Displays of Archives, Hobbies & Crafts, Flowers, Banners.
Little Fishes & Ark Displays.
Tea, Coffee & Cakes available.

Saturday 1 August: 10.00am - 4.00pm and 7.00pm

Displays of Archives, Hobbies & Crafts, Flowers, Banners.
Colouring & Face Painting.
Cream Teas at 3.00pm - £3.00
7.00pm Variety Concert by members of our Church.
- Brass Band, Poetry, Accordion, Monologue, Trumpet and Organ.

Sunday 2 August: 10.30am - 12.00noon

10.30am Celebration Service, led by Andrew Sellwood.
- attended by Mayor & Mayoress of Worthing.
- refreshments with Anniversary Cake after the service.

Caroline has arranged a banner making team and they have made a banner to celebrate 75 years! See her article on page 27.

75th Anniversary of this Church

4th August 2015

Over the last year or so, we have been looking into The CHRONICLE archives and printing highlights from the years since 1940.

We now come to look at 75 years ago in 1940, but before we do, let us go back to the early 1930s when our story really begins.

Our Story Begins...

Our story starts in the early 1930's when plans were under way to build a new church in the rapidly growing area to the west of Worthing.

Worthing Congregational Church in Shelley Road was the only church of that denomination in the area and so worshippers living in the west Worthing area had to



The Congregational Church in Shelley Road, Worthing c.1903.

Photograph reproduced with kind permission of Rob Blann, taken from his book "Edwardian

walk into town – a distance of 2-3 miles. *Goring Congregational Church*, now United Reformed, was planned for the late 1930's but the war intervened and the new Church (our present hall) wasn't constituted until 1940, with the building being delayed until 1947. The present church building was opened in 1961 under the leadership of the Rev Cyril Franks..

The pre-war years 1930 – 1939

During the early 1930's the district west of central Worthing was rapidly changing, new houses were being built; and a few shops had also been built in Goring Road. Along the Goring Road to St Mary's Church in Goring-by-Sea there still remained a beautiful unmade-up country lane and, on an Estate Agent's board, folk were invited to "Come and live in this Old World Lane". Shelley Road Congregational Church was the nearest church (of that denomination) to Goring, and moves were already under way by Shelley Road Church and the Sussex Congregational Union to erect a new church in Sompting (now Somping URC) to serve the needs of a non-conformist church in the Sompting and Cokeham area.

A Church Extension Sub Committee was set up to explore the possibilities of finding a suitable site for a new church building and it was during 1936 that they presented their report. They reported that a plot of land, known as Field Place Estate had been offered to them at very advantageous terms. A bridge over the railway line had recently been built and a wide road was being constructed between the Littlehampton Road and Shaftesbury Avenue to Goring Road.

The Southern Railway were proposing a new station (now Durrington on sea) to serve the ever increasing population. The committee suggested that not less than 3/4 acre site be secured, this was to give sufficient space for the erection of a Church Hall with car parking, and when the time was ripe also a Manse. The Church should have a seating capacity of 250. Cost of the building £2400 including furnishing. Cost of land £1600.

The 1940s

Worthing's Local Paper: 'The Herald', Friday, August 2 1940 :-

The local church here in Goring - 75th Anniversary - **The History: 1940s**

Goring Free Church: ALL Free Churchmen are asked to note that Goring Free Church services are being held every Sunday in Elm Grove School.

It had been hoped that the building of the new church would have been well in hand by this time, but the war intervened, and the project has been indefinitely postponed.

Rev F J H Humphrey was called to the Elm Grove congregation in 1942 and remained minister until 1947. He was a much loved man and was held in high regard by the whole church and occupied an affectionate place in the hearts



Rev Joseph Morris Bold 1887-1967

Rev Joseph Morris Bold

led the first service of the new church on the 4th August 1940 at Elm Grove School Hall. 37 friends

Issue of the first magazine – The Chronicle.

At a meeting of the Committee of Management on the 17th April 1944 the Secretary, Mr A J Rule, raised the question as to the issue of a news sheet on alternate months to Shelley Road's "Outlook" magazine. The meeting asked Mr Rule to undertake the work of its preparation and publishing and during the following meeting in July of

that year he reported that 150 copies of 'Number One' of the "Elm Grove Chronicle" had been issued at a cost of 18/6 (18 shillings and sixpence) or 92½p today. It was decided not to make any charge.

Although a date for the stone laying ceremony was actually fixed for November 1939 the complete building programme was very much delayed by the outbreak of the Second World War, in fact operations had to be abandoned for the time being. Mr A J Rule came to the church from Sheerness and proved to be richly endowed with a more than usual radiant personality — he was a steward—took a very active role in the running of the Management Committee — and became Secretary.

of all people with whom he came in contact .

During his ministry at Elm Grove School, a church building fund was started, a Ladies Working Party established, a class for the 'little ones' under the leadership of Mrs Humphrey's sister.



Rev Frederick J H Humphrey 1874-1947

A branch of the Bible Reading Fellowship was started and the issue of a news sheet was introduced.

The long awaited new Church

The new Congregational Church building (now the Main Hall) opened on the 1st March 1949 as a new dual purpose building, and the services were initially

*The local church here in Goring - 75th Anniversary - **The History: 1940s***

led by the minister, Rev Sidney Morgan.

The Rev Harold Maber Springbett was called to the church and inducted to the pastorate in 1950.

Top right:

The stone laying ceremony Saturday 19 June 1948.
Note the absence of the 'safety' scaffold poles!



Middle Right:

The then new church in 1949, with 'acres' of space around.



Below right:

The interior shows the Rostrum, with Communion Table, Chairs and Pulpit.

The 'Last supper' picture hanging was donated by Shelly Road Congregation church .

When our present church building was opened all furniture was moved into it and the pulpit was enlarged to suit its new place.



When Mr Springbett wrote on the occasion of our 50th anniversary, he said in his letter,

" My stipend was less than £7 per week, with no allowance for expenses or telephone, and, of course, no car. All my visiting was done on foot, by bicycle or on public transport. There was no washing machine or freezer, no television and no colour photography. Times have changed and the minister here at my church in Aberdaron rejoices in his word-processor. I was inducted on 9th February 1950. The Manse was at 19 Brook Barn Way, and I soon acquired an allotment between it and the sea to help feed the family. I was the first full time minister of the Congregational Church which had previously been overseen by a retired Baptist Minister, the Rev F J H Humphrey who had died some time before I came. His widow, with her sister, Miss Green, were members of the congregation.



THE REV. H. M. SPRINGBETT,
newly-inducted Minister of Goring Congregational Church.

Picture printed in the Worthing Herald
Fri 17 Feb 1950. Courtesy Worthing Library

When I arrived, there were some 90 members on the Church Roll, that number rising to some 135 by the time I left in the summer of 1953.

I also note from my diaries that as early as the spring of 1951 there was a Building Committee to give preliminary thought to the erection of a Church building proper."

The Sunday School Hall opens

It wasn't long before a separate hall was needed for the children of the 'Sunday School', and this was opened in November 1950. Mr Springbett can be seen to the right of the picture.

The local church here in Goring - 75th Anniversary - *The History: 1950s*

In the 50th issue of *The CHRONICLE* July-August 1952 it was written – ‘In these past eight years since May 1944, when the first *Chronicle* appeared, there have been crowded varied experiences for us as a growing Church, and this 50th issue may well serve to remind us how much we owe to some of those who have now passed on. To be able to look back and trace God’s guiding hand is never wasted time. From the pulpit at Elm Grove in the earlier days, it was once suggested that each one of us might do worse than sit down quietly and make a list of all those to whom we owe so much in our personal lives. None of us would find this an easy task, for it would be found extremely difficult to know when to stop, and what order to place the names in.’

Rev Charles Cyril Franks

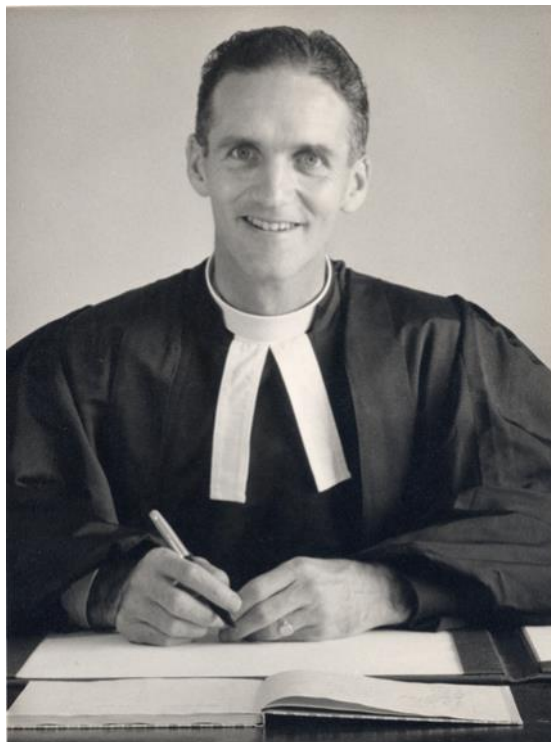
At a well attended Special Church Meeting held on 17th December 1953, and presided over by Rev S O Morgan, (who had again consented to help while the Church was without a minister) it was decided to give a very cordial call to the Rev Charles



Cyril Franks of Garn Congregational Church, Abercarn to the ministry at Goring. Mr & Mrs Franks were to come to a church which was ripe for expansion and which was full of opportunity for a man in the prime of his life. He came with his wife, Joan in March 1954.

By 1958, Joan & Cyril had a family of four and a new Manse was required. The Brook Barn Way Manse was sold for £2820 and the 140 George V Avenue Manse was purchased for £4500.

Rev Cyril Franks, Minister of Goring Congregational Church 1954-1963.



New Church Building Opens in 1961

It is probably true to say that without exception, everybody who attended Goring Congregational Church in 1960 and 1961 was getting very excited about the new church building that was being erected. A monthly progress was being reported in the Church magazine.

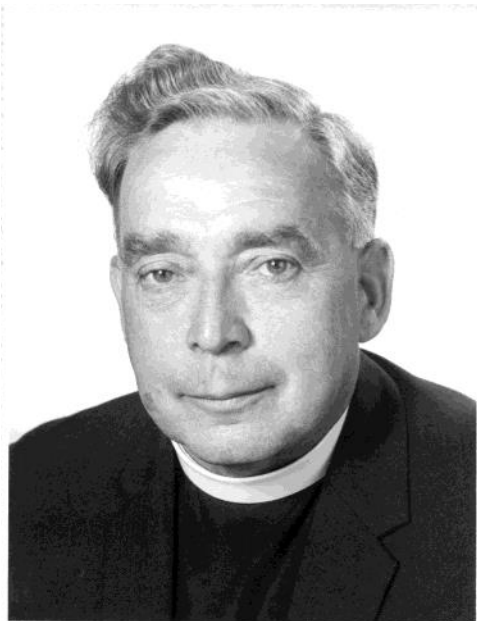
Rev Wallis Hayward The 1970's were very much times of change for the Church, beginning with the Rev. Wallis Hayward as our Minister, who actually came in 1964, one whose ministry was notable for his love and affection for young people.

He was keenly interested in the running of the Junior Church, the Youth Club, the

*The local church here in Goring - 75th Anniversary - **The History: 1970s***



Girls' Brigade and the Boys' Brigade, of which he was Captain for a number of years. Retirement in December 1973 loomed for Wallis but before that happened the Congregational Union and the Presbyterian Churches in England and Wales combined in October 1972 to form the United Reformed Church, an event having far-reaching consequences for us all.





Rev William Connelly

William Connelly minister at West Bridgeford URC was called to Goring to 'preach with a view' on 17th February 1974. After an interregnum of approximately six months, Revd. William Connelly accepted a call from the Church to be its Minister and was inducted in August 1974, leading to a caring ministry which extended over 17 years in which the Church continued to thrive.

Housing Association In the late '60's, steps were taken to form the Goring (Sussex) Congregational Housing Association, an initiative on the part of the Church to make provision for sheltered accommodation for those of our elderly members who no longer wanted the responsibility for the running of a house or flat. After years of planning and fund raising, 2 Shaftesbury Avenue was purchased and



modified to provide five flatlets.

Wallis Hayward returned from retirement in June 1974, to officially open the house, named after him.

Like Wallis before him, William was keenly interested in developing work among children and young people and

The local church here in Goring - 75th Anniversary - **The History: 1970s**

promoted several initiatives in this area of the Church's ministry to the community. Rev William & Mrs Connolly moved to Worthing with their family at the end of July ready for his induction service to take place on Friday 2nd August 1974.

Rev Ronald Christopher

Rev. Ron Christopher retired to Worthing and quickly entered into the life of the Church, endearing himself to all and worked very closely with William Connolly almost to the extent that some regarded him as Associate Minister. He had a special responsibility for the development of the Local Ecumenical Project (LEP) at Durrington. Ron, serving on this committee was concerned that there should be enough enthusiasm for the project, for without there could not be such a centre. He appealed to anyone living in the Durrington and Saltvinton areas who would be willing, as part of the outreach, to open their home for a group of neighbours or acquaintances to meet for social and religious purposes. He especially asked for prayers of the Fellowship, because, he believed the next few months would be decisive for the future.



The Harris Room & Kitchen Extension

By the end of 1985 work was well under way with another extension, the 'Harris Room', the link passage and the kitchen. The Harris Room was especially designed for small meetings. This extension was built using the legacy given by Miss M. E. Harris of Angus Road, a member of the church from 1952 until she died in 1973. Her gift was to be invested and used ten years after her death for any purpose that the church deemed fit.

Various people contributed to its furnishings; Mr Fred Marsh making the wooden cross which hangs on the wall.

The Rev William Connolly retired from full time ministry in November 1991.

The local church here in Goring - 75th Anniversary - *The History: 1970s-1990s*

He had been minister of Goring since 1974 making him the longest serving minister at this church.

In August of 1990 the church celebrated its Golden Jubilee celebrations including a Gift Day, releasing balloons, Jubilee Quiz, Celebration mugs and The First Fifty Years video was made. Cyril Franks led Sunday's service.

The Interregnum 1991-1993 Upon William's retirement Rev John & Mrs Elsie Flack were appointed as interim moderators. We will remember John for his leadership skills in public worship and for his inspired sermons and children's talks. We also remember Elsie for her leadership and gifts in music and singing, playing the piano and organ.

The inauguration of the Worthing Area Team Ministry (WATM) A team of 5 ministers came together to cover 4 United Reformed Churches from Central and North East Worthing, through West Worthing and Goring to Rustington about 7 miles west of Worthing. Ministry.

Rev Peter Heckels moved with his wife Eileen, to Worthing from Sawston, Cambridgeshire and Peter was inducted into the WATM in 1993.

The five ministers were Revs:
Margaret Ashby,
Norman Croft [part-time],
Bob Murray and Simon Franklin
as well as Peter Heckels.

In September of 1995 Little Fishes Playgroup was constituted being run under the management of Sue Mitchell. Many helped in getting the room ready for a playgroup including Sue's husband Pete.

Redecoration of the Sanctuary under Colin Nodes leadership began in the Spring of 1999. Then in the following year the start of a two year programme to decorate



The local church here in Goring - 75th Anniversary - *The History: 1990s-2000*

the exterior walls and windows. A number of volunteers 'turned up' in their working clothes on Bank Holiday Monday morning ready to start work on the main hall. By the end of the week, the hall and one or two miscellaneous areas had been beautifully painted leaving the East & West Halls and most of the main church building for another time. Peter received a ministerial call in 2000 and once again the Church was in an interregnum.

Rev Andrew Sellwood

Fortunately, for not long as in September 2000 the Rev Andrew Sellwood received a call from the



Decorating the Sanctuary in the Spring of 1999. Colin Nodes sorting out the paint.

Worthing Area Team, which he accepted. Andrew, and family moved to Worthing from Leicester towards the end of the year. There were now 4 ministers in the Team - so Andrew joined Margaret Ashby, Norman Croft and Roy Parkington,

Photo of the 'Team', with Peter on the right.

Website

After lengthy discussions and gaining elders and



The local church here in Goring - 75th Anniversary - *The History: 2000-2005*

church meeting approvals, a website was built and finally launched in May 2001.

East and West Halls

Re-roofing of the East and West Halls At temperatures around 34°C [95°F] in August of 2003 contractors battled with the heat to strip off the old roof and replace with new felt, battens and about 3000 tiles. This is the first time that the roof had been attended to since the opening of the Sunday School Hall in November 1950.

Serving the Community in the 21st Century

For a number of years, elders and members of the church have been considering ways in which it can better serve the needs of the community. A survey was conducted towards the end of 2011 asking members of the congregation to suggest ways in which the church could move forward over the next few years.

The survey came up with a number of suggestions:- More comfortable seating, improved heating and insulation, improvements to the audio visual system, replacement roof, and to use the sanctuary during weekdays were amongst many other ideas and suggestions. A programme to take these ideas forward was put in place.

Emmanuel United Reformed Church

An inaugural service took place on Sunday 2 January 2005 joining together congregations from Shelley Road [previously the Congregational Church in Worthing], and St Columba's United Reformed Church in St Michael's Road. The formation of a Joint Pastorate with St Andrew's, Rustington, took place towards the end of 2003. Elders from both St Andrew's and Goring Churches were discussing quite independently the possibility of a joint pastorate. This would enable one minister (Rev Andrew Sellwood at the present time) to focus more accurately on just two congregations. Likewise the two congregations would be able to more readily relate to the minister.

The inauguration service took place at the last 'Team Service' on the 17 April 2005 with the Joint Pastorate coming into being on the 1 May 2005.

Church Week-End Away

The local church here in Goring - 75th Anniversary - **The History: 2005-2009**

In March 2009 members from both churches of Goring and Rustington went to Pilgrim Hall in East Sussex for a week-end away. This was a time for Bible study, to hear a guest speaker, a time for socialising and to enjoy some



Andrew and Jill



lovely food. This was a wonderful event - a time for uniting us together.

2009: Wear and Tear of the Buildings

As the church building is now over 40 years old and the halls about 60 years old, it was becoming increasingly evident that they were showing signs of considerable wear and tear.

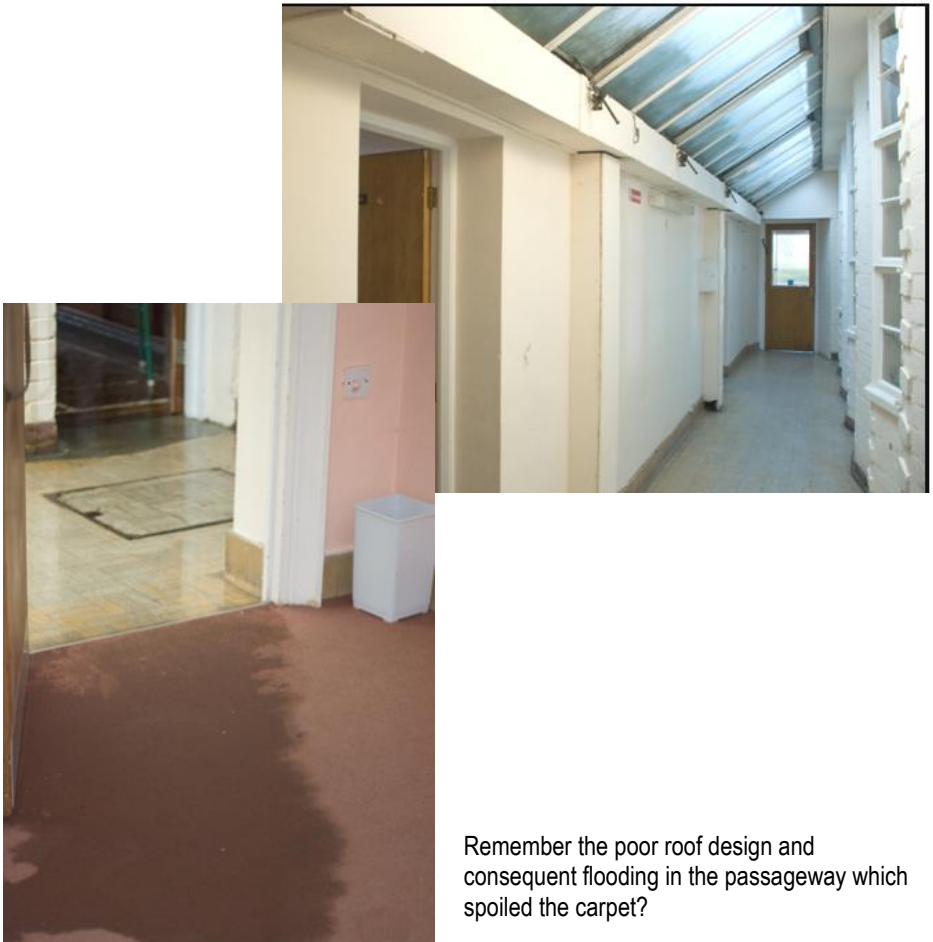


The local church here in Goring - 75th Anniversary - *The History: 2009*

Decorating had been undertaken but some leaks into the Sanctuary from the roofs were evident, and worrying leaks in and around the Cornwall Room were also a major problem. With this in mind plans were drawn up to completely redesign the little used Cornwall Room and side passage.

The builders were called in and work started on the Cornwall Room project during the summer of 2009.

The two old rooms were demolished, providing double doors through into the Main Hall, and Entrance Hall and with easier access to the church and vestry areas. New



Remember the poor roof design and consequent flooding in the passageway which spoiled the carpet?

The local church here in Goring - 75th Anniversary - [The History: 2009](#)



Looking from the newly constructed Cornwall room through the demolished wall to the Entrance Hall to outside.



carpeting laid, radiators fitted, kitchen area with hot and cold running water and toilets were provided.

Fire Action Plans and escape routes were put in place together with a fire alarm system satisfying the new fire, health and safety regulations.

Then, later in 2014 the safety plans were revised and a new Health and Safety document including Fire Action plans and Fire Risk

assessments were issued..

Projector and Screen

Towards the end of 2009 a projector was purchased and installed in the Sanctuary by a company from the Midlands. All hymns, songs, readings and notices could now be projected. This made for a wider selection of songs not limiting us to the one hymn book, and choice of Bible translations.

Magazine Digitized 2010

The task of digitizing 65 years worth of the Church magazine was finally completed by the end of 2010, after about three long years work of scanning and computing. All issues of The CHRONICLE are now available to view online.

Main Hall Ceiling Replaced

The main hall ceiling was disintegrating more and more and it became a health and safety issue. During a two week period just before Easter.

In 2011, L C Nicholas Builders came in to undertake the work of replacing the ceiling with plasterboard. At the same time we took the opportunity to insulate the area with insulation board, and adding to the fibre glass in the loft which had been put there 2 -3 years earlier.

Little Fishes rooms were refurbished in 2011.

Replacement of the Church Roof

Early in 2012, Church meeting gave authority to spent £20k — £25k to replace the copper roof with a modern plastic like compound. The copper roof which had been in place since the church opening in 1961 was replaced during the

summer of 2012. Whilst the copper roof was in place, there was a severe risk of the copper being stolen.

New Chairs for the Sanctuary

In December of 2012, 130 upholstered chairs were purchased, replacing the original uncomfortable plywood seating which had been in use for over 50 years.





Toilet for Harris Room

A toilet for the Harris Room was installed early in 2013. A leaky flat roof over this new toilet was discovered and called for a felt replacement in the autumn.

Heating System

Eight new gas fired individual radiators were installed in the church in December 2013. They are non fan assisted and together with the two existing heaters in the transepts, are being controlled by an intelligent controller. The heaters are far more efficient than the redundant radiators.

Church Prayers

Prayer meetings are taking place again from early October 2014 - prayers specifically for this Church and its people and its future.

Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths Records:

To help celebrate our 75th Anniversary, all Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths that have taken place in this church since the very early days have been transcribed and can be found on our website at the following address -

<http://www.gurc.org.uk/archives/>

It has been a very long project, taking a number of months to complete and we really thank Val Gill, Tania Hunt and Lindsey Parsons for their sterling work, painstakingly copying every record - over 2000 of them!

Our first records were in 1944 about 4 years after Goring Congregational Church was inaugurated when two babies were dedicated; Edward Hite and Irene Challis [now Irene Tuley]. It wasn't until the church proper [now our church hall] was opened in 1949 that the first infant baptism took place and our first wedding in 1950.

Our restored, 'framed' Cradle Rolls which records all the Baptisms and Dedications are hung on the wall in the Little Chapel. There is also an alphabetical list on the wall.

Audio/Visual System.

As this Chronicle is being printed, many improvements are being made to our sound system. We have received many reports from people who are finding it difficult to hear. Sound was high on the list of priorities on the survey which was taken a few years ago. Many estimates were received ranging from £4000—£15000, so we thought that for no more than £2000 we could do it ourselves. Five new loudspeakers have been added to provide all round sound

The local church here in Goring - 75th Anniversary - *The History: 2015*

and to fill in some of the 'dead' areas. Three microphones have replaced the old ones which create a much clearer voice pick up. We also have two amplifiers in the system giving us a more 'wholesome' quality of sound. would completely destroy the design and ambience of the church building. Cost would be prohibitive.

*Graham Redman
July 2015*

A television type monitor is being fitted to the Vestibule wall enabling a welcome screen and/or other notices to be shown to visitors especially during our outreach events, Family Fun Days, Concerts etc. It will also be used on a Sunday morning, relaying sound and vision into the Vestibule, repeating what is being displayed on the main screen. A new 'Drop-In' coffee area also benefit from this facility.

One large item is still very much on our minds; that is the condition of the East and West Transept windows and frames. We are currently in discussion as to how this should be tackled, but it is more than likely we will keep the original concrete window frames, sealing them and inserting double glazed units.

It is agreed this way will not be as an effective way of heat insulation as replacing the whole frames with white upvc units, but in doing so

The local church here in Goring - 75th Anniversary - Banner



75th Anniversary of this Church

An Elder asked.... "Would it be possible to make a banner to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of our Church?" That was the question and my answer was.... "Yes of course and let me give it some thought." Well I gave it some thought and chatted with others to collect ideas.

It had to be a banner that involved as many people as possible.
 It didn't have to be emblazoned with 75 years because it would be limited in use.
 It had to have a design that reflected the past.
 A design that would take us into the future.

Perhaps it should have numbers of significant anniversaries, 10, 25, 50.
 Shall we ask the congregation for texts and choose one of them?

All these things were swimming around in my head for weeks, the term 'Twixt Downs and Sea' reflected the past kept coming back to me. It is the name of a booklet published when the Church was celebrating the first 25-year anniversary. The term summed up a perfect design to celebrate three times 25!! I had the backing fabric left from a the millennium banner so asking the church members to donate pieces of fabric that means something to them in the colours of the downs and sea seemed appropriate.

Now! What of the text.... it should be something everyone could identify with.... mmmmm think! Then I woke up, with a start one morning, "75 of them we need 75

texts from members of the church." It was at this point that I believe the Lord breathed a sigh of relief because at last I had heard him. HE laid on my heart what the design should reflect and what it should say to us and those who follow us. Here we go we will make our banner to the Glory of our Lord!

Its time to get going.... The March workshops were booked during which the background was put together. It was fun, someone made tea and as we worked we laughed, reminisced and enjoyed fellowship of people with one aim – to serve the Lord. As I write we still have the June workshops to come when we will finish the banner completely.

We who have put the banner together hope you find it enhances your worship in this church and that we may move forward in the strength of the Lord.

Some Memories of Fifty Five Years in the Life of Our Church

Having moved from Mill Hill, London in 1958 we started to come as a family to Goring Congregational Church to worship soon after.

My parents were drawn to Shelley Road Congregational Church liking the traditional Victorian building and the established congregation with the Rev. Bernard Spauld but I felt much more inspired by the active fellowship led by the Rev Cyril Franks and the enthusiastic members. I was received into membership by transfer from Mill Hill in April 1959. We were worshipping in what is now our main hall and, because of the large congregation, it was necessary to get to the church early to get a seat. By the time the service was due to start there was standing in the aisles, the porch and sometimes in the kitchen (much smaller than it is now). On the stage were the pulpit, communion table (later transferred to the sanctuary) and the choir. Junior church groups met in the East and West halls whilst the beginners group met in a hut in the north corner of the car park.

In 1959 the membership was engaged in a major project to build our present church with a modern sanctuary able to seat 300 people. For the opening service of dedication in September 1961 the sanctuary was full to overflowing with additional seats at the back and both transepts full. The service was relayed to the children in the west hall as there was no room for them in the sanctuary. It was a tremendous occasion with an augmented choir and many dignitaries.

The building of the Cornwall Room followed in 1966 and then later the Harris Room, and the enclosing of the passage between the main hall and the west hall. (Now Little Fishes Pre-school). Further developments involved the building of a much larger and needed Kitchen.

Latterly, of course, were the present improved Cornwall Room and the provision of toilets for the disabled. How many changes we have seen over the years, but more importantly, in the life of the Christian Fellowship!

The transfer to becoming the United

The local church here in Goring - 75th Anniversary - Memories

Reformed Church in 1972, Missions: I remember a mission to the newly built Boxgrove Estate. The acquisition of Hayward House was an important outreach.

We had very active Boys' and Girls' Brigades.

We were involved in the Durrington Community Centre Church. Little Fishes, the Ark and Kestro are more recent developments. There is much more that could be mentioned.

Our family milestones have been blessed by the fine ministers who have served the church in these long years.

- Membership with Cyril Franks
- Our marriage by Wallace Hayward
- The Christening of our daughter Elizabeth by William Connolly
- Elizabeth's wedding by Peter Heckels
- As church Secretary with Andrew Sellwood

So many involvements in the life and fellowship of the Church have been times of great blessing.

Jane Bond

The local church here in Goring - 75th Anniversary - Memories

Memories of Sunday School, Youth Club and Girl's Brigade

'Sunday School'.

The National Christian Education Council annual Bible examination, learning passages off by heart including the punctuation, winning age group shields and certificates.

Each year we were presented with certificates showing our attendance percentage, I received several book tokens for achieving close to 100%! Then there were arts & crafts and Inter-Church sports days, held at the football club and then



West Park School, with presentations and a hut!.
shared lunch held at our Church.

Each year we had an outing, often by coach, to Chessington zoo, or up the river to Arundel, Swanbourne Park, Sullington Warren for games and I particularly remember breaking down in a boat on the lake at Lancing.

Youth Club

Run for over 14 year olds by Chris Byerley with John Almond and their spouses, Janice and Tiz.

A Saturday evening from 7 – 10 pm spent playing table tennis, snooker or table football. Music from a record player and vinyls in the back hall (now Little Fishes playroom). Tuck shop in the tiny kitchen off the Main Hall and gossip, guitars and singing in the 'Hut'. Oh how we miss that

We'd regularly meet with groups from other churches and hold a disco in the Main Hall, a chance to dress up and impress the boy/girl you wanted to get to know a bit better!

Each May bank holiday (we only had one then) we would have a camp in large tents, catered for by John, with a Portaloo and large pit dug for waste. Oh yes, we roughed it in those days. But what

memories those camps made. Chris would walk us miles across fields and footpaths, clearly with the sole purpose of making us so tired that we would sleep soundly with no hint of mischief.

There was no 'Health and Safety' just common sense. And it worked well with no major incidents that I can recall. In later



The Scripture Shield

The local church here in Goring - 75th Anniversary - Memories

years Graeme and I ran the youth club with Julian and Christine Brewer and continued the camps. Absolutely exhausting!

Girls Brigade I joined as an Explorer and continued, through the ranks to a Brigader, helping with the Explorers until I was married in 1981. I have many memories of visits to the Albert Hall, camps at Weymouth, annual displays and generally earning badges by learning crafts such as tying knots, physical activities including skipping and marching which I loved and trying to play the trumpet which was not so successful.

My husband Graeme moved to Worthing in 1966 and attended Sunday School, youth club and the Boys Brigade. We were not particularly close friends until we met up on August Bank Holiday 1977 but have many shared experiences and friends from our time growing up in the Church. Some we still see regularly and exchange Christmas cards with, namely John Elliott and Julian & Christine Brewer, and the Byerleys are almost members of our family. Thank you for the memories. Val

Soon after moving to Worthing we began Goring Congregational Church straight away. My brother Phillip and I attending the Sunday School, and the Boys Brigade. Which was run by Wallis Hayward and later by Don Stewart.

Like Val I remember the inter Sunday

School events and Bible study. I found that very hard, as well as having to answer questions on a set theme which we had studied previously. We, that's Val and myself also helped in the Sunday School led by Jean Marsh.

In the Boys Brigade there was the annual display, involving drill and Gym/vaulting etc. held in the main hall.

We also had KASIC. (Kent and Sussex inter company Camp) held at various fields around the country from Prestatyn in Wales to the Isle of Wight. Travelling there in Don's mini bus. It was very competitive with Tent inspections and inter company sports. We all slept in bell tents set out around a parade ground with a large marquee for eating and notices.

I also attended the Youth Club, which for me was run by Chris Byerley, John Almond and their respective partner's Janice and Tiz. There was a record player in the west hall and we had to bring our own records to play, which often got scratched. Also a 'Tuck Shop' which in the end was in the old Hut. Where some people played their guitars and other musical instruments.



With Val, myself and Julian and Christine Brewer we too ran the Youth Club, holding a spring bank holiday camp, which was all very tiring, though enjoyable. The Youth Club was also run by Ray &

Some Other Memories



I was born on May 3rd 1944, the same day as Edward Hite, whose parents, Will and Mabel Hite were founder members of Goring Congregational Church, like my Granny, Margaret Anderson.

We were the first to be Dedicated at Elm Grove School, and I can remember the Sunday School in the classroom with green painted walls and coat pegs all round! My

parents, Ron and Nell Challis took me and we transferred to the newly built Church at Barrington Road, made possible by the foresight and support from Shelley Road Congregational Church.

I remember going with Colin Nodes and Edward to a Sunday School outing at Chessington Zoo, by coach, such a wonderful treat!

At 8 years old, I left Sunday School and joined the Girl Crusaders, where

The local church here in Goring - 75th Anniversary - Memories

I became a Christian at the age of 10. When I was 12 years old, I returned to the Church bringing a friend, to Cyril Franks' ministry. The Church had grown considerably and we often gave up our seats to others half way through the services, as people were standing in the porch and cloakrooms! I also enjoyed the Youth Club and the after evening service Manse nights.

The new magnificent Church was built and opened in 1961, a year before I started nursing in London. A group of 12 of us in our early teens became Church members, and I remained a member for over 40 years. Two elderly couples, Robert and Greta Pepperdine and Gordon and Doris Wraight, took me under their wings in my teens, regularly praying for me and keeping in contact when I was away from home, which I greatly appreciated.

I owe much to their prayers!

I came home and attended Church when I could, but once I moved to nurse on the Renal Dialysis unit in Brighton, became much more involved. Richard and I were married at the Church in 1968 and our son and daughter were baptised, attended Sunday school, the thriving Youth Club and gam Youth services. Richard was an Elder for 18 years as well as a Lay Preacher, and I was an Elder for 4 years and very much involved in pastoral care. I was active in Monday Evening Fellowship, the Tuesday morning Mums' Bible study, an afternoon prayer group, the District Council, Synod, annual District Women's meetings, Women's World Day of Prayer and Christians Together in Goring. Also we held a Bible study group in our home for 22 years! God moved us on to join New Life Church in Durrington, 16 years ago.

I praise the Lord for the 50 years I spent at this Church, for all that I learnt and for all that God enabled me to do.

To Him be all the glory and praise!

From Nottingham to Worthing. - The Connelys

In the Spring issue of *The Chronicle* I wrote about Rev. William Connely's call to the pastorate of this Church in 1973 and his Induction in 1974, and the work done during his ministry; his retirement during which he obtained his M.A. degree, and the publication of the book on Dora Greenwell, which was based on his M.A. thesis.

Sadly, his health deteriorated and eventually he was diagnosed with vascular dementia. The deterioration continued and in the autumn of last year it became necessary for him to move into a care home to have professional care. From time to time he asks about the church and certain people, but increasingly his memories go back to his first church in Uppermill, Saddleworth, 60 years ago and I have to scabble in my own mind for memories of people we knew at that time in order to give an appropriate response! Please remember him in your prayers.



William & Mary Connely. Photo taken November 2007

How I had missed the sea since leaving Cornwall! In our first church we had the bleakness of the Yorkshire moors on one side and the grime of industrial North on the other, then we moved to the inland farming community of Newport in Shropshire, then to the suburbs of Nottingham. Never a sight of the sea.

I remember how excited I was when we first visited Worthing, I think it was Mr. Charles Stephens who met us at the station and said, "We'll drive along the seafront to the church". Our first sight of the Worthing sea? Ha! Couldn't see it because the road was lower than the promenade and there were no cliffs and rocks, only the backs of the bathing huts. Cornwall it was not!

However, church and people suited each other and in the April of 1974, William sent the letter of acceptance, including these words: "It is with absolute trust in Christ who is the head of the Church and the one who goes before to lead us in all our ways, that I accept the call of the Church meeting at Goring-by Sea to be Minister of Word and Sacraments among you. I believe that my dear people here, (for whose good I urge your prayers) will confirm this one hope, that whatever I have lacked in gifts or talents in the service of the church, I have never wanted for loyalty or love."

In the Easter holidays of 1974 I came down from Nottingham with a suitcase of 'go everywhere with me' plants

and started on the garden of 140, George Vth. There had been a long, dry spell and the ground was hard, like concrete, and I ended up having to wear a neck brace for some time!

Looking back in the archives, I found the report of the journey made by some members of Friary Church, Nottingham, to come to the Induction. It was written by Mr. Pamplin, (known as 'Pamp') in his inimitable comic style.

The Chronicles of Friary

And it came to pass in the year MCMLXXIV in the reign of Elizabeth, daughter of George the Sailor King, that there was great lamentation in the Land of Friary. For it was noised abroad that William the Connolly, Chief Priest of Friary had seen a wondrous vision wherein the people of the Land of GURC had said, "Come over into West Sussex and help us." And the Chief Priest of Friary took great thought unto himself and searched his heart, and having found it, called unto him the Chief Scribe of Friary and charged him that he call together the Elders and the People of Friary for he needs must speak with them.

And when all were gathered together the Chief Priest told them of his vision and

that he needs must depart from their midst, shaking from his feet the dust of West Bridg-ford, and travel to a far country, even to the Land of GURC, which is in West Sussex, there to acquire the sands of Goring and dwell thereby.

For the far country is down South, beyond the South Downs which run down to the great waters which is called the En-Glish Chann-el.

And the Elders and the people of Friary murmured among themselves and said "As you wish, so must it be, For was not the fame of Friary noised abroad by the great Aunt, even Be-Be-See, that all men should see Tele-Vision, which is called Gogg-le-Box." (This is a reference to a televised morning service from Friary in 1973, which brought William to Goring's attention.)

And of the Elders and the People of Friary those who were sorely troubled rent their garments and cast them aside to be given to the great Jumb-Le-Sale. And others said, "He that has hair to tear, let him tear." And it was so.

Then the Elders and the People of Friary said "It is not meet that the Chief Priest and his helpmeet and his children and his acolyte of the tribe Felinus should journey afar without we should send

emissaries to take greetings to the tribe of GURC and to see that the Chief Priest be received well at the great Solemnities which is called In-Duction." And many preparations were made that all that could, should travel to the far country.

For those without horses and chariots the Elder of Friary said, "Let us seek out with great diligence a great diligence which is called Min-I-Bus that a great number may travel." And they charged all brave enough so to journey that they take unto themselves food and water lest they suffer hunger and thirst betimes. And they charged Ronald the Griff that he care for the six and ten horses taking in water and oil meet enough and then to guide the diligence up and down the downs and thence up and down the Downs and up to Friary.

And it was so. And this was the manner of their going, for they journeyed the Great Road which is called Em-One, through the lands of the Notts and the Leics and the Northants and the Bucks even unto the Great Metropolis and thence through the land of Surrey to West Sussex.

And there was great rejoicing in the tribe of GURC that the diligence which was called Min-I-Bus and which

some called Connolly's Coach and others the Friary Flier should bring such a Company of Friars.

They said, "Since that you have come up over the Downs, you shall have High tea. And it was so. And it was good to look upon. And it was good to down.

A great number forgathered in the church that night and William the Connolly was presented to the tribe of GURC and with one accord they said 'This is a great thing that we do.' And they extended to him the hand of friendship. And the people of Friary said, "Amen, so let it be." Then the tribe of GURC opened up their dwellings to the travellers and there was festivity and song and such many happenings that are beyond the stylus of your scribe to record.

On the next day, at high noon, all the travellers being assembled with William the Connolly at his new dwelling that is called Manse, farenells were said and the people of Friary set off on their journey to the land of Notts.

And behold, ere sunset they were returned to their homes, some to seek rest from their journey and others to further festivities, which concern us not. - and the six and ten horses were restored to their stable, having consumed water but eight and ten measures of oil and answering every call made upon them, bearing the pilgrims in all four hundred, one score and two miles.

And so ends this chapter in the Chronicles of Friary.

I would like to thank friends and members of each of 'our churches'

A Message from our friends Peter & Eileen Heckels

We arrived in Goring in August 1993, in time to settle into the area and be ready for our children starting school. The church was in the process of buying a new manse and for the first six or seven weeks we squatted in the old manse with deck chairs and sleeping bags, a microwave and a small portable TV. We were learning to trust that God wanted us in Goring and we were longing to bring our furniture and other personal things into the new manse. For six weeks it seemed to rain every day, the Girls Brigade did a morning service on the theme of Noah which seemed very appropriate, but it did remind us of the rainbow.

That rainbow came with the induction service in mid-September, confirming this was where God wanted us to be, although Eileen and I had already begun visiting and the warmth of those we met had already reminded us of this.

However life is not always simple in God's plans and for those involved in the youth outreach of the church change was not happening at the pace they felt necessary and within eighteen months a number of them felt God calling them to serve elsewhere. These were tough days as the church and its leadership reflected on the way forward and as a church there was a real sense of bereavement. However, there is always the rainbow and as a church we were very involved in the organisation of 'Alive 95' the main Worthing event for the Decade of Evangelism leading up to the millennium. (I still have my jumper

although it is now gardening wear).

Then we were involved together in the establishing of the 'URC Tem Ministry' in Worthing as Synod wrestled with the question of ministerial deployment. What was really good about this was that it not only involved ordained ministers but each church had lay representatives on the steering group and the whole picture of ministry was allowed to develop and grow.

We were active in our reaching into the community around us, we did a door to door survey, had flower festivals, and Christmas Pantomime, Sunday School through the week, built on the stroke club activities and began 'Little Fishes' playgroup. We also shared with other churches in many events, and how can we ever forget the Pentecost afternoon on the green when the Spirit of God blew through our meeting as a powerful wind. Much of our life was about worship, the weekly services, each very different, but all being opportunities to sense God at work. This built us into a real fellowship of God's people and that is the rainbow that still shines, the deep faith of so many and the love of God felt in our midst.

In late 1999 we sensed that the Team Ministry needed new faces rather than those who had been involved before it's conception, and God confirmed this calling us 'home' and so in June 2000 we bade farewell and moved back to Newcastle to continue our ministry, leaving many friends too many to mention by name, however it is with thanksgiving that we continue to remember

We thank God for -

75 years

of ministry in His Church here in
Goring by Sea

Articles for the Autumn edition of The CHRONICLE

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

1. E-Mail to chronicle@gurc.org.uk
2. or by post to Graham Redman
5 Salvington Hill, Worthing, West Sussex. BN13 3AT

The last day for Autumn Chronicle articles is 30 August 2015

Please help to save our printing costs by viewing The Chronicle if you can,
on-line. www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle-online

Tuesday Fellowship

1. We saw a DVD of a concert that Pam Ayers did. It was quite good and I will never tell it like she does I will tell you a bit of what she said. She received a step ladder for Valentines Day from her husband and she was not happy to get such an unromantic gift. She informed us she is not old (we believe her) Mind you she doesn't seem to age. She saw an ENT specialist Had a camera down her throat. Not nice she told us and does not recommend it. She joined a gym but left after a month too smelly she told us. Carole Cullis did the report that day as I was unable to be there so thank you Carole for that.

2. We had an extremely interesting talk with slides given by Sylvia Jarret on the small charity she is involved with. It is called Imara Uganda Education fund. The charity helps to educate children in 3 schools in the north of Uganda which has been devastated in the past by terrorist attacks. Consequently there are many orphans and the area is very poor. The 3 schools the charity helps are a primary and 2 secondary schools one for boys and one for girls. Their last project was to build a library and stock it with books. Their next project is to build toilets. 1500 children attend school and there are 150 to a class The books are in English because that is the language they are taught. We saw

slides of the library and on the floor was a map that had been painted which is impressive Sylvia spoke about 12 children being sponsored. one carrying on to university

An educational afternoon for us all.

3. Next we had PC Vic visit us again to tell us more of his work in the police force. Not before he showed us fixed penalty notices and particularly hand cuffs again so we were told that if we misbehaved we would wear the said hand cuffs and he hasn't got keys to unlock them so as you can imagine this reporter got the pen rather than the mouth working that afternoon. He went on to tell us that in the 1970s he worked in the complaints department. There was a theft in BHS in Lewisham which Vic investigated and as he was there he got Maureen a job there. He sorted the good bad and indifferent in the complaints department and lost a lot of friends Quite sad I think. A colleague and Vic went to investigate a neighbour's concerns about hearing scratching and crying. It turned out to be a woman who went to look for something in the loft and couldn't get down they got her down and all ended well. Vic was up for promotion from Sergeant and became an Inspector. He was based at Kings Cross When Rhodesia became Zimbabwe in 1980 he had to be in Victoria to have jabs to go and help with



The cross has recently had LED lighting installed replacing the old strip lighting, which had ceased to work. They say that fishermen when out at sea early in the morning use the illuminated cross as a beacon to find their way home. Wonderful !



The New Ringer

Those of you connected with KESTRO will remember the jolly times when St. Margaret's Handbell Ringers came to entertain. I loved it and when the open invitation came at the end of the afternoon to 'come and have a go' I was always first up on the stage to do just that.

So now I have joined the team and after only my first practise was invited to play for an engagement, ringing on just one bell. After the second I was asked to ring two, and wearing the smart tartan waistcoat and white gloves like the other seven team members. In the past I have been a change ringer at St Botolph's Church, but don't imagine there is any similarity! There is the same absolute concentration, but in addition a frantic counting of beats in a bar – either three or four and watching for the numbers as on the bells in your hands.

The following poem says it all:

I am a hand-bell ringer – in front of you I stand
 A look of fear upon my face, and a bell in either hand
 I'm not sure what I'm doing; I've not been ringing long
 But if I count and count and count I'm sure I won't go wrong.
 The audience is ready – gloves on, it's time to start
 One last cough, the baton's raised and I must play my part.
 I feel my fingers tighten, my pulse begins to race
 Watch and count, watch and count or I will lose my place.
 We're doing well, it's all ok – I've rung two notes already
 My heart is beating really fast,
 but my counting's nice and steady Oh whoops I missed a note just there,
 I'm sure that IO was mine I mustn't panic,
 mustn't flap, the rest will go just fine

The lady ringing next to me – she didn't ring her 9
 And where's that little run of notes that ends with my 11?
 Oh help! I think I've lost my place! Quick someone, what's the bar?
 Give me a number, someone please – tell me where we are!
 Ok, verse two, I'll try again – this time I'll get it right
 I'll take a breath, count every bar; keep every note in sight
 Here comes my bit, ring nice and loud, keep it smooth (legato)
 Bells up, ring out, strike both the notes, then blush like a tomato!
 The piece is nearly over now – it's ending in a minute
 This bit is hard, the notes are fast; I'm glad my bells aren't in it!

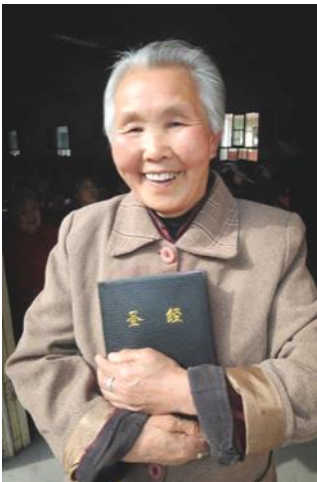
SPREADING THE WORD

If you are a Bible Society supporter you may have followed the initiative that aimed to provide Bibles for the Chinese people. People who had no access to a Bible in their own language or at a price they could afford. Christians who longed to read the word of God for themselves and sometimes even wrote out the words by hand.

Here is the story of the Amity Foundation and the United Bible Societies that have made this possible. This printing company started China's Bible industry in 1987 in a remote area of farmland and in 2008 moved to a new facility in Nanjing where the annual print capacity is 18 million copies. It is now the world's largest printer of Bibles and in 2012 celebrated production of the 100 millionth copy. The Bible has been printed in 100 languages and distributed around China and to more than 70 countries. More than 83,000 copies have been printed in Braille and each one is printed in 32 separate volumes.

The Amity Foundation was founded in 1985 by Chinese Christians under the leadership of Bishop Ding Guangxun, at first funded by churches overseas and initially focused on projects in the poor rural areas of northern Jiangsu province in East China. It is one of the largest and most influential charities in China and aims to boost the development of the public welfare system in fields such as education, social welfare, community development, environmental protection and disaster management. It has funded medical workers, school places, rural development, child welfare centres and medical teams providing cataract operations.

In June 2012 the State Administration for Religious Affairs announced that 139,000 venues had been approved for religious activities, 56,000 of those venues being churches and places in which Christians could congregate. According to estimates there are 23 – 40 million



Weekday Activities

Tuesday Fellowship	2nd and 4th Tuesday Afternoons
The Ark for Adults with Babies & Toddlers	Thursday Mornings. School Term times
Kestro (Stroke Club)	Friday Afternoons
Little Fishes Play Group	Monday-Friday. School Term times
Bible Study Groups	Various times & days

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The Chronicle costs approximately £1.50 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-online

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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 Reformed Association of 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, (CT4W) and Christians Together in Goring, (CTG) 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

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 2015

The Magazine of Goring United Reformed Church



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

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 in the Harris Room

The CHRONICLE

Vol. 72 - No. 643

Autumn 2015

Front Cover

A Banner to commemorate the 75th Anniversary was designed by Caroline Hibbs and put together by the banner making group. Church members contributed their favourite texts and fabrics; and these have been sewn on.



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From The Manse: Rev Andrew Sellwood

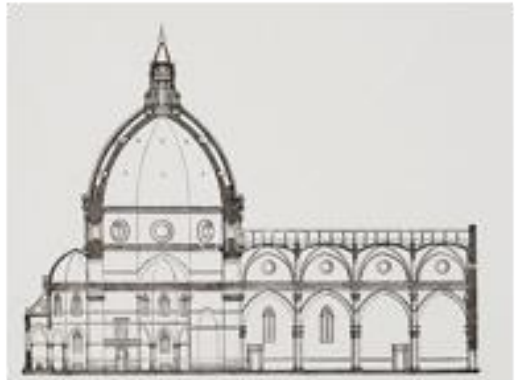
It's about the right time to reflect on our recent 75th Anniversary Celebrations.

- It was a very good time and wonderful to see so many people involved - tick.
- The talent show on Saturday was fun - tick.
- Those who visited commented on what a welcoming and friendly community we were - tick.
- The varied interests and skills on display fascinated them - tick.
- They were interested in the history and development of the buildings and resources - tick.
- They thought we had a good relationship with our community and were sensitive to its needs - tick.
- The Sunday morning service went down well, so did the cake after - tick.

But there may have been a few areas we missed out on, opportunities we hadn't considered. After any event there is praise and also criticism. Hindsight is a wonderful thing. However it is important to review and refine the things of the past. As a minister you learn for every 99 things you get praise for the 1 slip is the one that is so often remembered above all.

Throughout the 75-year celebrations we were not just talking about buildings but a community of worshippers.

I was very fortunate to have recently been able to spend sometime in Florence on a research project (more about that later in this Chronicle).



The city is so old most of the houses are built on foundations more than 2000 years old.

Over the years the buildings have changed very little, it's like a snapshot into medieval

times.

I stayed near the Duomo a huge church in the centre of Florence. It took 140 years to build 1296 – 1436 but actually it took another 400

Foreword - *The Manse*

years to finish the decoration.

I was so amazed I read up extensively on the history.

What I felt to be incredible was that the planners knew they would never see it finished – they designed it with the dome impossible to build with known technology – they went in faith that one day it would be finished. There were many far-fetched schemes for finishing the building. One of the original planners had a theory. If you were to fill the building with earth as it rose from the ground in theory that would support the building of the great dome. The comment was made, “how would you get in the building if it were full of earth?”

The proposer of this technique replied, “simple, you secretly place a few gold coins in the layers of earth and on the day of completion you open the doors and invite the population of the city to take a bucketful away, hoping there will be a gold coin in it” a kind of lottery, no

surprise this idea was not adopted.

The original planners went in faith and at the beginning of the project it seems their motive was genuinely to glorify God and not their cleverness or skill. In a few decades though things were to change, it seems this building was to be a status symbol for the city-state and the ruling dynasty.

As mentioned the planning group (Opera de Duomo) had no idea how the largest dome they ever planned would be made, they



simply did not have the technology at the time.

Many years from its beginnings a gifted man named Filippo Brunelleschi came onto the scene and had an ambitious and revolutionary solution to construct the dome. The building was completed, and it still stands.

Although it's tempting, we are not here to talk about buildings but people, building a community of worshippers. Generation by generation Christians are called to change our society for the better and bring justice and fairness to our world.

Sometimes we have to go forward with what we believe God is telling us. We may not have our plans fully worked out. That's faith. We trust in God to use what we have done. It's often said we plant seeds of faith without ever seeing the fruit in someone's life. To be good and faithful servants of whom our Lord will one day say - Well done.

75th Anniversary of this Church

During the week-end of Friday 31 July to Sunday 2 August we celebrated the 75th Anniversary of this Church. The first service being held in Elm Grove School Hall in 1940 on Sunday 4th August.

Doors were open on Friday afternoon. We enjoyed flower arrangements in the Sanctuary and an exhibition of Crafts and Hobbies etc in the halls.

On Saturday those who were not able to come along on Friday had the opportunity to see the exhibitions. It was good to meet up with a number of 'old' friends and catch up with lots of news. Refreshments and lunches were available throughout the day.

A Variety Concert organised by Geoffrey Redman was held on Saturday evening starting at 7.30pm. Those taking part were —

Brass Band: Simon, Mark

Monologue: Do; Organ: Geoffrey; Poems: Marianne; Piano: Mary

Accordian: Val; Folk Song: Hilary

We welcomed the Mayor, Counsellor Michael Donin and Mayoress Ms Linda Williams, to our service on Sunday morning which was conducted by the minister, Rev Andrew Sellwood. Again it was very good to meet up with friends of years ago, and to enjoy a slice of Anniversary cake !!

They say that pictures speak



The local church here in Goring - 75th Anniversary Celebrations



louder than words, so on the following pages you can look through some of the many photographs taken.



The local church here in Goring - 75th Anniversary Celebrations



Tuesday Fellowship



Monday Games Afternoon



Junior Church



The Elders' meeting



Junior Church



Painting For fun



Junior Table Tennis



Journeys with Jesus

The local church here in Goring - 75th Anniversary Celebrations



Refreshments in the Hall



*Painting for Fun - Above and.
Cross Stich & Embroidery - Right*



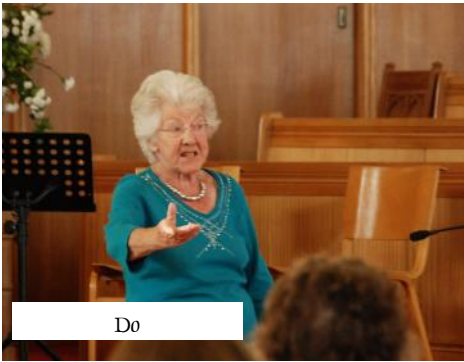
Saturday Evening's Concert



Val, Geoffrey & Mary



Marianne



Do



James



Val



Geoffrey

The local church here in Goring - 75th Anniversary Celebrations



Brass Band



Simon



Hilary



Eileen



Vestibule



The Audience

Pastoral Care at Goring URC

Jesus commanded His disciples
"Love One Another As I Have Loved You"
John Chapter 15 verse 12

How should we respond ?

There are a number of resources in the church to help us care for one another

The Prayer Book in the Little Chapel

In the Little Chapel there is a book for recording all kinds of prayers. Anyone can write a prayer here, and be sure that others will include them in their prayer time. If you are unable to come to the church to add your prayer please ask a friend, your elder or the Pastoral Secretary to help. It can be quite anonymous.

A Team of Elders and Visitors

If you have any concerns which you need to share in confidence, there are elders who will listen. Everyone in our Church Handbook is in the care of one of the elders. If you do not know who your elder is, or as yet your name is not in the Handbook, do not hesitate to get in touch.

Book of Remembrance

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

Holy Communion

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

Confidential Forms

If you would like to tell the Minister about what you would like included in your funeral service, please ask for a Confidential Form. It will be kept in confidence and only opened in case of need. The information can give peace of mind and avoid possible confusion at a later date.

Flowers

The flower arrangements which we enjoy and which enhance our Sunday worship are available afterwards to take out to anyone who might enjoy them at home. If you know of someone who would like a bunch of flowers and a message from church friends please let us know. If you would like to make a donation to the cost of providing the flowers, or take a turn to deliver them again- please let us know.

This little book is a directory of names of all who are associated with the church. It also gives the names of elders and has other 'useful' information. If you would like a copy or you would like your name to be added please let me know. It is also available in large print.

Contacts:

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Tel. 248259

Pastoral Secretary:

Mrs Hilary Redman
Tel. 260568, or
e-mail hilli@ashleacottage.co.uk

Flower Secretary:

Mrs Carol Webber
Tel. 690334

Hilary Redman

The Handbook



THE ECHELON WINDOWS. & INNER ENTRANCE DOORS

The description of the Echelon Windows and Inner Entrance Doors given on the following pages has been taken from a little leaflet produced at the time of the opening of the new Church building in September 1961.

The glasswork was carried out by the Guildford Glass and Metal Works Ltd, who were also responsible for the glass in Guildford cathedral.

ECHELON WINDOWS SYMBOLS



The Star of Bethlehem supposed to be the morning star, symbolises the Nativity. As the morning star proclaims the dawn, so Christ's birth heralded the passing of the world from night to day - from the darkness of sin to the light of



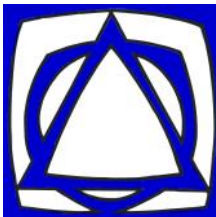
The Cross and Crown of Thorns symbolises the Passion.



The Pelican who tears open her breast to feed her young with her blood, is the symbol of Christ's work of redemption and sacrifice, and resurrection. It was believed that the Pelican brought its young ones to life with its blood. The emblem is frequently shown above the crucifixion.



The Eagle, because it is the 'bird which soars heavenward.



The Δ and \bigcirc were frequently used by early Christians as symbols of the Trinity and Eternity

ECHELON WINDOWS SYMBOLS

The Egg is the symbol of creation.



The Apple and Serpent are symbols of sin.



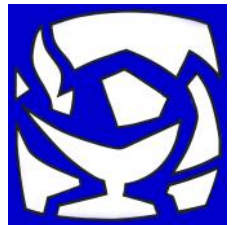
The Dove was used by the early Christians on the tombs in the catacombs, and the position of the bird had a special significance: it usually signifies the Holy Ghost but in some cases, as in this example, it symbolises Baptism.



The Apple is the symbol of the fall of man, but in the hand of Christ symbolises the redemption from sin. The hand is shown to be that of Christ by the use of the cruciform nimbus - a halo with the cross superimposed on it.



The Lamp symbolises guidance, knowledge, enlightenment, and immortality.



THE INNER ENTRANCE DOORS

The Etched Glass representing the Four Evangelists

St Matthew



St Matthew was given the Cherub, or human semblance because he begins his Gospel with the human generation of Christ; or according to others, because in his Gospel the human nature of Christ is more insisted on than the divine.

In the most ancient mosaics the type is human, not angelic, for the head is that of



St Mark



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



THE INNER ENTRANCE DOORS

These symbols follow the application of the four creatures put forward by St. Jerome in his commentary on Ezekiel Chapter 1 verse 5. The early images of the evangelical symbols are uniformly represented with wings, for the same reason wings were given to angels.

St Luke



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



St John



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



A Sabbatical

A Sabbatical for Rev Andrew Sellwood

I was very fortunate to be able to take a sabbatical recently. What exactly is a sabbatical you may ask? The term sabbatical actually is derived from the Biblical Sabbath, which serves a human need to build periods of rest and rejuvenation into ones life. Traditionally you'll find sabbaticals in academic careers.

When I was at college I remember an American church leader who was on sabbatical. His church gave ministers one year off every seventh year! Sounds very Biblical, we get three months every 10 years, which is still pretty good.

People may take a sabbatical to fulfil a goal, build a skill, or do research; I managed to do all three. Before you can take a sabbatical a fairly detailed plan has to be submitted. This has to be approved by the URC Ministries committee. I duly put together a package to research church mission, growth and development; it was very academic and a bit dry to be honest. But our training officer graciously commented it was a good plan, but do something you really want to do for

yourself. Coincidentally at this time I had been asked to facilitate an art room for our ministers summer school (and also to be the schools chaplain). This gave me the idea ... find something to do with 'art'! I have always been interested in art history so I made the link with art and spirituality. Just as this connection was being formulated in my mind out of the blue some one lent me a book entitled Seeing Salvation images of Christ in art. The book was a companion to a BBC series I had missed. So the plan is coming together. One of the most exciting periods for the development of art, particularly religious/ devotional imagery, was during the renaissance. My Sabbatical was now taking shape with a



working title - 'Influence of the Renaissance on Christian art'. So let us define what the renaissance was; a dictionary definition goes like this - *the activity, spirit, or time of the great revival of art, literature, theology, philosophy and learning in Europe, beginning in the 14th century and extending to the 17th century, marking the transition from the medieval to the modern world.*

A Sabbatical

It really all began with a rediscovery of ancient Greek and Roman writing and philosophy. One of the centres for change was Florence; here particularly during this period of history the grip of the feudal lords and church hierarchy was loosened. The power and influence began to be focused on the worth of ordinary



individual human beings.

During this paradigm shift there was also a rediscovery and encouragement of the personal aspect of the Christian faith. It was no longer to be the exclusive commodity of the elite and educated, no longer embedded in impenetrable liturgy and manmade religious law. Influential individuals such as Girolamo Savonarola began to highlight the greed and corruption within the church.

All this revolutionary thinking paved the way for the reformation of the European church. So, how was the art world affected during this time of change and transformation in both the secular and Christian world? That was the

question I needed to address.

The time went by so quickly some of the things I had planned to do were left undone.

It was indeed a surprisingly busy time.

However I managed my bit of overseas travel – a trip to Florence, some research, I took a retreat, wrote training course and revisited a skill – painting. It was a great shame Jill could not take any time off due to pressures of work. The highlight of my sabbatical was a three-day trip to Florence. I had a room a stone's throw from the Duomo (the great cathedral) in the middle of the city. The building I was staying in was built in 1455 I was impressed by that but the manager told me the original foundations were built in the first century AD. That was true for most of the other buildings in the city. It was like a snapshot of medieval life the solid buildings remain and it is just the people who pass through age by age. Being here in this beautiful and ancient city really brought the books I had read to life. To see the paintings and sculptures in context was an invaluable experience. Being so close to a work by Giotto or Fra Angelico and be able to see the brush strokes, even the corrections, amazing. I am not going to say too much on this subject in this article but rather encourage the reader to see one of my PowerPoint talks in the near future.

Postscript to the Florence trip, coinciding with my visit – the latest Dan Brown book 'Inferno' was being made into a film. Everywhere I wanted to go the film crew were there first, it was a rather surreal experience. It was a shame when some of the places I wanted to visit were closed for

Mary Connelly

Hope Springs Eternal

Early in the season, I transplanted my tomato plants out into the garden, into the ground instead of in big pots as I did last year. I thought it would save the constant watering that had been necessary. Well, this year there have been only a few days I had to check on that! The plants took their time to get established as the weather was kind one day and cruel the next, warm, sunny, even too hot, then wet, cold and windy. It was on one of those windy days when the South-West gales were at their worst, that one of the tomato stems with several bunches of promising flowers snapped, just a foot or two above ground, leaving only the smallest strip of

connection on one side.

It looked as though it had happened a few days before, as the wound was quite dry and stiff. Oh, dear! Have I lost a fifth of my tomato crop?

Well, worse things have happened in the list of gardening accidents and instead of possibly severing the stem completely, I supported and tied it above the break and waited to see what happened. The flowers and leaves might shrivel, dry and drop off as food and water was cut off by the break, but I should give it a chance, surely? It did not seem to be dying just yet, but how could it possibly survive?

I resisted the temptation to look at it every day (I think.), but after a few days when I examined it, it became evident that it was a

survivor and there was no evident slowing down of the growing process — indeed, the flowers were changing into fruit and there was even another clutch of flowers forming near the top of the plant. At present count there are 55 tomatoes in various stages of ripeness. How? After such a traumatic break, how did it overcome the severe difficulties it faced?

Somehow, water and nutrients had made their way through the few remaining unbroken channels of the stem, enough to bear a good crop of ripening fruit. There were also nodules on the underside of the stem, ready to turn into roots, should the stem drop to the ground. Pulled-off side shoots will also make roots and behave as fully-grown plants. There is hope for us all!



Mary Connelly

War-torn, broken lives and desperate families are struggling to survive and need support, care and to put down roots. With our compassion and assistance we may yet see healing and growth of strong, healthy, integrated families.

"The bruised reed I will not break, but strengthen and sustain."



"Poems for Pilgrims."

This is the title of Beryl Chatfield's third book of fifty of her poems, and which was published earlier this year. Like the previous books, it is available from her for £7.99. Anyone interested in buying a copy, please contact Beryl direct. If you have friends who like poetry, you might like to consider giving it as a Christmas present. Telephone Beryl on Worthing

Articles for the Winter edition of The CHRONICLE

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

1. E-Mail to chronicle@gurc.org.uk
2. or by post to Graham Redman
5 Salvington Hill, Worthing, West Sussex. BN13 3AT

The last day for Autumn Chronicle articles is 1 November 2015

Please help to save our printing costs by viewing The Chronicle if you can, on-line. www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle-online

We thank God for -

75 years

of ministry in His Church here in Goring by Sea

Weekday Activities

Tuesday Fellowship	2nd and 4th Tuesday Afternoons
The Ark for Adults with Babies & Toddlers	Thursday Mornings. School Term times
Kestro (Stroke Club)	Friday Afternoons
Little Fishes Play Group	Monday-Friday. School Term times
Bible Study Groups	Various times & days
JWJ - Journeys With Jesus	Monday afternoons at 4.15

Publication Team :-

Proof Reading: Mrs Jane Bond and Mrs Denise Woods

Mailing Secretary & Treasurer: Mrs Susie Thomas

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chronicle@gurc.org.uk

The Chronicle costs approximately £1.50 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-online

chronicle@gurc.org.uk





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 Reformed Association of 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, (CT4W) and Christians Together in Goring, (CTG) 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

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 2015/16



The Magazine of Goring United Reformed Church



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

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



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Vol. 72 - No. 644

Winter 2015/16

Front Cover

Not sure whose handy-work this is, but it has been in the church for many years.

The Advent calendar Times

Please pick up an Advent Calendar from the table at the back of the church.

Open the door to Jesus this Christmas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 10.30am Bible Service 8.00am Rev A Robinson	30 Decorating the church	1 10.30 - 11.30 Celebrating the Christmas Tree	2 10.30am Bible Study (10.30am - 11.30am) (see for address)	3 10.30am Church Prayer Meeting	4 Special Liturgical 7.30pm	5 7.45pm - 9.15pm Carols and sing your Christmas Carols together
6 10.30am Rev Jenny Morgan (C of E) 8.00am Rev A Robinson	7 7.45 - 9.15pm Ages 5 - 18 Bible Service 10.30am Rev A Robinson	8 9.30am Sunday Fellowship Christmas event with Rev A Robinson	9 9.30am Praying for Run Christmas Prayers 10.30am Church Prayer Meeting	10 10.30am Church Prayer Meeting	11 10.30am Rev A Robinson 8.00am Rev A Robinson	12 10.30am Rev A Robinson 8.00am Rev A Robinson 10.30am Rev A Robinson 8.00am Rev A Robinson
13 10.30am Rev A Robinson 8.00am Rev A Robinson	14 10.30am Rev A Robinson 8.00am Rev A Robinson	15 10.30am Rev A Robinson 8.00am Rev A Robinson	16 10.30am Rev A Robinson 8.00am Rev A Robinson	17 10.30am Rev A Robinson 8.00am Rev A Robinson	18 10.30am Rev A Robinson 8.00am Rev A Robinson	19 10.30am Rev A Robinson 8.00am Rev A Robinson
20 10.30am Rev A Robinson 8.00am Rev A Robinson	21 10.30am Rev A Robinson 8.00am Rev A Robinson	22 10.30am Rev A Robinson 8.00am Rev A Robinson	23 10.30am Rev A Robinson 8.00am Rev A Robinson	24 10.30am Rev A Robinson 8.00am Rev A Robinson	25 10.30am Rev A Robinson 8.00am Rev A Robinson	26 10.30am Rev A Robinson 8.00am Rev A Robinson

with an Advent Calendar of events at Goring URC www.gurc.org.uk

Candlelight Carol Service

Sunday 20 December at 6.00pm

Children's Nativity Service

Christmas Eve at 5.00pm

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Rev Andrew Sellwood



I am sure you know the Christmas story by now. One of the important things we discover is that there was no room for Jesus in the inn that first Christmas. Perhaps there is still no room for Jesus this Christmas?

Early November and the Christmas TV commercials are relentlessly rolled out to assault our eyes and ears. They are desperate for us to know its *'that time of year again'*. Every one must be prepared and stocked up. Some of the adverts are lavishly filmed with a specially commissioned sound track. Some are designed to pull at our heart strings. Some just blatantly shout 'its party time'!!! Others portray Santa's sleigh laden with goodies ... come buy ... pay later. Yet another advertising a well-known grocery store asks the question 'what is at the heart of Christmas'? Good, I thought this is more like it. Maybe here Jesus will get a mention. The answer was soon given. Of course the answer was Food. How silly of me, its food.

Apparently that is what Christmas is all about, food. From Brussels sprouts to multi stuffed birds. This particular advert focused on an 'average' family sitting round the dinner table. We view the scene as though we were a guest. The table seems to groan, it's piled high with all kinds of food. Around the table are mum dad three happy children, some jolly older relatives all tucking in joyously.

So from the first few days of earnest advertising what do we come to understand about Christmas 2015? First and foremost it's a time when people are expected to part with huge sums of money. It is a time when we are required to consume great quantities of food and drink.



It is a time when people are surrounded by family friends and loved ones.

The more I see of them the more I cant help thinking the kind of imagery and content of these adverts is shallow and more than slightly offensive.

Firstly it marginalises a significantly growing number of people: those who have very little money, and find it incredibly hard to make ends meet, those who have no work, those who have no family friends or loved ones. There are so many lonely people in our society, and of course those who suffer being rejected by society.

Perhaps I am being too negative, too grumpy? The advertisers would say we are not interested in those kinds of people we want the ones with money to spend. It may be difficult to believe, but rather than drawing us closer to God, sometimes Christmas actually draws us away! For many, this Christmas season will be filled with rushing, hurrying, and milling around department stores, feet aching, head throbbing, nerves frazzled.

Stop! Be still for a moment, keep calm and remember the reason for the season. Think about what kind of people would Jesus want to attract?

What kind of people did he draw to himself? His message went out to every one who would believe, from the beggar to the rich young ruler.

So, let us make room for Jesus in our hearts and receive the amazing gift he has for us, each one of us.

John 1:9-12

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

Love, joy and peace this season –

Yours Andrew

A Christmas Quiz

1. What's the name of the period leading up to Christmas?
2. How many Wise Men brought gifts to Jesus?
3. How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas?
4. What was the name of John the Baptist's Mother?
5. Who brings presents to children in Holland on the 5th/6th December?
6. How many letters are in the angelic alphabet?
7. In what town was Jesus born?
8. How many presents were given in total in the 12 Days of Christmas?
9. In what decade was the first Christmas Card sent in the UK?
10. What country did the family escape to?
11. How many of Rudolph's eight companions names start with 'D'?
12. What country did Christmas Trees originate from?
13. Who was the 'King of the Jews' who ordered the babies to be killed?
14. What's the second line of "I'm dreaming of a white christmas"?
15. What was Joseph's job?
16. Who started the custom of Wassailing?
17. Who were first people to visit the baby Jesus?
18. What's lucky to find in your Christmas Pudding?
19. What Angel visited Mary?
20. Where did the baby Jesus sleep?

Answers

Children's Quiz on page 23

- | | |
|---|---|
| 11. Three - Dasher, Dancer and Donner | 1. Advent |
| 12. Latvia but it was part of Germany then! | 2. More than one. Bible doesn't say how many! |
| 13. King Herod | 3. Deep pan, crisp and event! |
| 14. Just like the ones I used to know | 4. Elizabeth |
| 15. Carpenter | 5. St Nicholas |
| 16. The Anglo Saxons - it means 'good health' | 6. 25; 'no el!!! |
| 17. Shepherds | 7. Bethlehem |
| 18. A sixpence | 8. 364 |
| 19. Gabriel | 9. 1840s - 1843 by Sir Henry Cole |
| 20. In a manger | 10. Egypt |

The local church here in Goring

Dear Friends, By the time you read this I expect my membership of Goring URC will have been transferred to Ferring Baptist Church. It took a lot of prayer and thought, having been a member since 1967, but I am so very happily settled in my new home and Ferring Baptist Church, that it seemed the right thing to do.



The move, for me, was the very best possible thing. I am loving being so near to everything and just five minutes walk away from church.

I am doing things I've never done before and feel I have a new lease of life. I have kept my 'phone number so do please give me a call and come and see me. I don't intend to lose touch completely.

Thank you G.U.R.C for so many happy years especially the 24 years spent in Girl's Brigade. To you all my love and special blessings for the days and years to come.

Jean Webb



Roy & Sheila Gooderham leave for the West Country.

A cake to celebrate Roy & Sheila's time with us at Goring.

They became members here in May 1987 having moved from New Malden URC.

We wish them well with Christ's blessings as they move to be close to their family in Taunton.

They actually plan to be in their new house sometime in the new year after spending a few months in rented accommodation..

Journeys with Jesus

Journeys with Jesus (JwJ) began on Monday 7th September for children in school years 1-6, as the follow up to Messy Church. Although as many families from Messy Church were contacted as possible, we had no idea whether any children would come, then at 4:15 four girls arrived and then over the next 15 minutes another three girls turned up. Within another two weeks we then opened the doors to three more children, making ten children (including two boys) who come regularly and with which we finished our first half term.

The material we are using comes from a book published by BRF, entitled *The Big Story* by Martyn Payne. It is divided up into six, six week sessions covering the school year. Each half term has a theme, our first one being *Enemies and Friends*, the next covering *Advent* is *Dark and Light*. Each theme covers some stories that are not often covered and pose a

challenge at times to the leaders as well as the children.

This book has interesting suggestions for telling the story for each week, keeping things interesting; some stories have actions, one we told with a board game, where the children were the counters! Another used a bow and arrow, with very limited success, so we used safety darts instead; friends David and Jonathan have something to answer for! Who knows what the next half term will bring?

Thank you everyone who has been praying for us. Please continue to do so praying that the children who come will bring their friends; that JwJ will continue to be interesting and stimulating; that the love of Jesus will be felt by everyone that comes through our doors.

Valerie Cooper, Bett Swiek
and the leadership team.

Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son Matthew 1: 18

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.



Table Tennis Juniors

Table Tennis Juniors (TTJ) was a spin off from our last Family Fun Day in May and has become a fun way for our few youngsters to get to know each other better, meeting every Monday evening from 6:30 to 7:30. Open to those ten years and above. Some come regularly while others drop in when they are free, with five or six coming.

Apart from Bett and myself Rosina comes along as a responsible adult and Jim Hunt has given us some very helpful coaching, showing everyone how to serve and where to serve! Alan Easey brings Daisy and stays giving a wider variety of play for the youngsters.

We also have our uses, as we have a young man (a pupil of Mary's) who is taking part in The Duke of Edinburgh award Scheme and needs to do one hour a week of volunteering. Jameal comes early to help set up the tables, helping by challenging the others to a game and with the tidying at the end.

At the end of each session we play "around the table" where everyone joins in, even parents who come to collect their off spring, providing there are enough bats, causing more laughter than table tennis, but providing some cardio-vascular exercise!

Thank you to the Table Tennis Club for allowing us to use their equipment.

Valerie and Bett.

"Poems for Pilgrims."

This is the title of Beryl Chatfield's third book of fifty of her poems, and which was published earlier this year. If you have friends who like poetry, you might like to consider giving it as a Christmas present. Like the previous books, it is available from her for £7.99. Anyone interested in buying a copy, please contact Beryl directly by telephone, Worthing 248313 or email, bchatfield@talktalk.net.

Tuesday Fellowship

We had a visit from Hilary and Graham to tell us about their holiday in Canada in 2012. They saw a handsome white buffalo in Banff and went to a themed restaurant where they were entertained by the waiting staff who were dressed in traditional costumes and entertained the diners with songs, poems and local stories while they ate their meal.



Wherever they went there were lovely views of lakes, and mountains and glaciers. Lake Louise was beautiful with it's little red boats. Near Jasper they saw an elk beside the road and a bear with two cubs walking through the roadside undergrowth.

They went on a river trip in a dingy confronting the rapids.

They went to Vancouver on the Rocky Mountaineer train, and saw lots of Osprey nests built high up on bridges and poles along the way. Some Canadian Mounties met them off the train at Kamloops.



From Canada to Alaska, in USA, by cruise ship. Graham had taken lots of photos and we saw one of a Bald Eagle catching a salmon and a bear also catching a salmon and eating it. That was a good afternoon.

The local church here in Goring

Next we had a visit again from Marianne the singer and guitarist who came before. The list of songs we sang were. Oh what a beautiful morning, Bye Bye Blackbird. She sang the Red Red Robin as she has a robin visit her garden. We sang a song from South Pacific and a Spoonful of Sugar from Mary Poppins. Leaning on a Lamp-post, This is my island in the sun. Then a song by Doris Day: When I was just a girl. Then we sang two Vera Lynne songs: The blue birds flew over the white cliffs of Dover and We'll meet again. A lovely and lively afternoon. Before our summer holiday we had the usual AGM and a garden party at Bobby's house.

We met again on September 8th with a catch up of news and giving in our subs. The speaker at the next meeting was PC Vic Joy.

Then our friend Tony Trevithick came and continued the tale of the train journey from Twyford to Henley by-pass. At this point he reminded us we all like to think of ourselves as important, and that envy is a sin. God knows our every sin even if others may not.

Then on to Maidenhead where Tony reminded us we can build walls which are hideous. As Christians we must build bridges. Do we really know other Christians from other churches. Building bridges is a good way of getting to know folk from other churches. On to Slough. We were told of a mother duck who was encouraging her ducklings to leave the nest and follow her (the talk became quackers!) Seriously, God is like that mother encouraging us to follow him and His ways and take that leap of faith.

Then finally to Paddington where the station is such, that the trains stop like us and then move on. Like the trains at that station we have to move on from one stage of our life to the next. It may have bumps and rough times and good times but at the forefront God is with us every step of the way.

A really lovely journey from Penzance to Paddington. Thank you Tony and God bless you and Margaret.

We look forward to your next journey.

Janet Dean

A Wedding in Australia

Many people have kindly asked me how the trip went. It went very well thank you. But as is the way of things, the days and weeks go by so quickly and the memories become just that, memories.

During this trip, our third trip, Jill and I managed to see a little bit more of this huge country. We began by spending a few days in Sydney and a visit to Bondi beach of course. Then we flew up to the Sunshine Coast, staying in a rented holiday home between Maroochydore and Mooloolaba Then moving on inland to Nambour where our girls now live in the Hinterland.

I hired a car for the trip this enabled us to explore some really beautiful places. I managed to take about 1400 photos and a couple of hours of video.

Oh yes there was the wedding! That was an experience-taking place in a venue on top of a mountain with a fantastic view across to the Glass-house mountain range.



Andrew with daughter, Liz

Emma and Elizabeth had planned, designed and made all the wedding decorations. It was great that Jamie could be with us for the celebration.

Our granddaughter Lily made a very stylish flower girl.

Enough words, here are some photos.

Love from Andrew and Jill.

Hobbies and Interests



A quick hug



Grand-daughter, Lily at her local beach.
Golden sand as far as the eye can see.



Lily, scooting around

Hobbies and Interests



The Bride & Groom
Emma and Scott.

Andrew's & Jill's
Liz, Emma & Jamie



Hobbies and Interests



Emma with her Bridesmaids
And Flower Girls.



Proud Mum and Daughter

NEWS FROM THE 'STITCHERY' !!

Where and what is the 'Stitchery'? Well.... it's a room in my house that I call the biggest sewing box in the world! Men have sheds and workshops and I am fortunate to have a Stitchery. It is full of bits of fabric, threads, and all the paraphernalia to do with sewing and I love it!! I can leave out all the mess and close the door! Those of you who sew will know what I mean!



From a baby I have had a certain infinity with fabric rubbing silky stuff between my fingers to get the right 'feel' whilst sucking my thumb!! A habit I dropped long ago but I still feel fabrics and only work on fabric that has the right drape and handle, (the grown up way of saying the 'feel') usually cotton now; the silky stuff doesn't work for me anymore, I suppose its because I don't suck my thumb!!

Since I graduated in 2012 with a BA in Embroidered Textiles and with four other graduates we have taken the art of textiles far more seriously.

Hobbies and Interests

Forming an exhibiting group 'Quinary' we have shown our work in various parts of the country. In 2016 we will be showing 2015 work in Bath, Coventry, and the NEC with new work for Worthing in October.

My work is what is termed experimental embroidery using different fabrics and threads in unusual ways; it means I am only held by rules I set myself and not by others. I absolutely love playing with thread and fabric: sometimes it can be frustrating trying to come up with new work, rather like wading in mud but when inspiration strikes and I get all my ideas down on paper so I don't forget its lovely.

At the moment I am working towards new work for Worthing although as yet I have no idea what it will be so I am working on an exercise that is becoming a very interesting piece of work. The brief was: take a piece of fabric you like and draw round a 10p piece and embroider one a day however you like. It should take no less than 15 minutes and no more than an hour. So far I have done 23, watch this space for an update!!

Recently I came across the term 'Needlework communicates as well as decorates'. Which is very true, in the church we have banners that have been made to enhance our worship,



communicate our faith and decorate our sanctuary. We have enjoyed sharing our skills in times of fellowship and fun. It has been an uplifting experience to use the gift that others and myself have been blessed with to the glory of God here in Goring. *Caroline Hibbs*

Gatwick Airport Reminiscences of a Fun Job



Carole with a friend in the stockroom

My daughter wanted to go on an expensive skiing holiday with the school.

We needed an extra income coming into the household and I had friends who worked in the shops at Gatwick Airport.

I had an interview and was told I could start that evening. No references needed, my friends were my references. How lucky was I.

We worked from 7pm until 11pm and it was sometimes extended during the summer months. Gatwick Airport in the late 1970s and early 1980s was nothing like today.

The shops were run by Trust House Forte, except for Duty Free which was run by Alders. The planes stopped taking off at 9 o'clock, so from then onwards it would be quiet. Three memories that stand out are -

The day Freddie Laker airline collapsed and we were so upset we had a whip round for the employees and we got a lecture by our supervisor.

The small severely disabled child who was brought along by his/her mother (I can't re-

member which sex the child was) because it was quiet and there was a vast expanse for the child to try to learn to walk, and the night we were taken by our new supervisor, a young boy who had no idea how to handle a bunch of women, on the train to look over the North Terminal which was not yet open. For some reason we all dissolved into hysterical giggles on the train and poor Les tried to disassociate himself from us. Happy evenings.

Carole Culliss

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

The Birth of Jesus Foretold Luke 1: 26-27

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

The Birth of Jesus Luke 2: 1

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.

Happy Christmas — Happy Birthday

When Graham and I were on holiday this year, I was fortunate enough to celebrate my birthday by going to a favourite restaurant in Haria, a little village towards the north of the island of Lanzarote. Canary Islands.



Sunset near Haria

We ordered our starter, a plate for two to share, and then Graham's mobile began to ring. "Can you Skype?" said son Paul from his home in England. We went outside so as not to disturb other diners and were greeted by "Happy Birthday" sung by Paul, Mary, Chloe and Nathan.

What a treat! There were plenty of others eating outside, other diners who acknowledged the moment and smiled. We returned to our table to eat our starter. It was a lovely meal served to us by the young and only waitress who had told us that she came from Budapest in Hungary.

Our meal continued and gradually all the diners paid their bills and left.



We were not alone for long — and as we ate, another family took their seats at a table nearby. A German family; grandma and grandad with their daughter and her two little adopted girls; one from Taiwan and one from China, aged about 9 and 5 years old. Gentle and courteous conversation began between us, mostly in English! (People from across the sea are always so eager to practise their English!!)

And so it came to the time for us to have our desert. I chose a piece of cake from the counter, and went back to my seat. Then came the cake! The waitress had lit a sparkler and stuck it in the icing, and began to sing happy birthday! Everyone joined in.

It was a unique and happy moment: 'Happy Birthday' sung in five different languages, but all to the same tune - English, Hungarian, German, Chinese and Taiwanese. I was overwhelmed.

It was all down to our lovely waitress who carried the 'Skype moments' of earlier in the evening through to the desert, and shared my birthday with the other diners. Thank you!

It caused me to pause and think : perhaps this is what it is like for God when He hears His people praise Him altogether, all the people of the world singing in our different languages but using the same tune of praise?

Happy Christmas!

Hilary Redman



Proper Job!

Having recently returned after a few days in Cornwall, to attend the last family reunion which had been held annually for forty years, I brought back with me one of the common sayings for a job well done – “Proper Job!”

“If a job’s worth doing, it’s worth doing...” I expect most of you said, “well” interpreting that to mean, as Mary Berry would say in *The Great British Bake Off*, “It has to be done perfectly.” That is the time-honoured rendering of the saying, so I have always tried to do well in any task I have attempted.

However, more recently, as physical strength and senses have deteriorated, I have been forced to consider the alternative version, which shocked me when I first heard it, but now I can understand it – “If a job’s worth doing, it’s worth doing badly”: but would I do a job if I thought the result would be less than good, if not perfect?

The third version is....” Get/pay someone else to do it” What? To do something I have always done for myself? Alas, that is how it is and I have to come to terms with it. But not entirely and not yet. One night I heard strange noises, but assumed it was the wind blowing things around outside.

On waking in the morning, I also assumed that my eyes were not focusing well as the bookcase looked askew. After breakfast I found it was true and it stood at the same angle. The well-laden bookcase was lying three inches down at one end – something had given way under the carpet.

This was a major blow! Books and bookcase, as did another (less laden) bookcase, had to be removed from the room before the carpet could be pulled back to see the reason for the collapse.

Have you ever seen the cartoon of ‘The Sorcerer’s Apprentice’ where by accident the apprentice made everything multiply at a frightening pace?



Books on a shelf don't take up too much room, but taken off the shelves and put into boxes, they take up the whole floor space of another, bigger room and not all in single layers.

Back in the little room, there was now space to pull back the carpet. An electrician had, at some time before we had moved into the house, chopped through a floorboard to ease the passage of electric cable underneath the floor. He had put back the piece of floorboard, securing it with a small piece of batten and four two-inch nails. The floor was carpeted before we moved in and I set up the bookcase with a weight bearing foot unknowingly on the join. The weight of books increased as it became full and after a decade or so the nails began to warp under the pressure and it eventually gave way.

So the fault was found and it had to be put right. Could I do it myself? No, it had to be done better than I could possibly manage. A good neighbour came round with power tools, wood, and good strong nails. Proper job, done well.

The only payment he would take was the gift of two apple crumbles. The carpet was put back – but wait! While there's room to move, why not get it decorated?

It's about time after twenty-three years of too many books to get at the walls. Yes, I have plenty of ceiling paint and *just* enough wall paint if eked out with some of the ceiling paint. Do I still have the talent? Do I have the ability? Can I stretch enough to reach the ceiling? The low bathroom chair can be a step up on to the desk-chair, which is high enough for me to reach the ceiling – by stretching and using muscles which had been shortening over the last few years.

Inch by painful inch, taking longer than it should, the ceiling regained its former bright, white glory. Now for the walls. They are a little easier, but there are four. Skirting boards and door are glossily shining white. The room is transformed.

I wonder how Mary felt when because of an accident in time and circumstance her birth pains started and she had to make do with a bed of straw in a stable surrounded by the animals rather than in the comfort of a bed in the inn, or better still in her own bed, surrounded by her family and friends with as many amenities as were available. How many hours did she suffer and how difficult was the birth?

Mary Connelly

What help did she have? We only ever see the tranquil mother looking at her quiet baby. Did He not cry as he emerged into the dark, cold, uncomfortable world? Did she not have the same problems and troubles as any other mother, even more, fleeing for their lives on the back of the poor tired donkey? Not a good start for the Saviour of the World!

If a job is worth doing... did He do it well? And do we appreciate His pain, His suffering, His endurance, and His ultimate sacrifice? And are we brighter, cleaner and better for His efforts?

If not, the fault must be in us.

May this Christmastime be the beginning of a Proper Job.

P.S. Do you remember the 'failed' cacti some of us received as a present from the church last year, when the promising buds refused to open and I know of at least one plant that ended up in the bin! However, I nurtured mine throughout the year and though the original buds are still there, unopened, further growth has resulted in a beautiful plant.

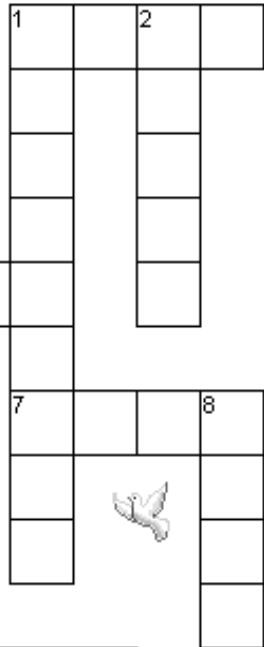
— Proper Job. Mary



Birth of Christ

DOWN

- 1 Who were tending their flocks by night
- 2 Who announced the birth of Christ to the shepherds
- 3 The wise men bowed down to Jesus to _____ him
- 4 Jesus was born in this town
- 6 "The _____ of peace" - one of the titles of Jesus
- 8 mother of Jesus
- 9 Jesus was born in a _____
- 10 The shepherds were in the _____ when they saw an angel



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ACROSS

- 1 The wise men followed a _____ that led them to Jesus
- 5 human father of Jesus
- 7 There was no _____ at the inn for Jesus
- 9 one of the gifts of the three wise men
- 11 Jesus could not stay at the _____ because it was full
- 12 and on earth _____, goodwill toward men (Luke 2:14)

More puzzles at: <http://biblewordgames.com>

Answers or Solutions on next page

Articles for the Spring edition of The CHRONICLE

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

1. E-Mail to chronicle@gurc.org.uk
2. or by post to Graham Redman
5 Salvington Hill, Worthing, West Sussex. BN13 3AT

The last day for Spring Chronicle articles is 1 February 2016

Please help to save our printing costs by viewing The Chronicle on-line, if you can. Thank you. www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle-online

MORE PUZZLES AT: <http://biblewordgames.com>

BIRTH OF JESUS SOLUTIONS

Weekday Activities

Journeys with Jesus & Junior Table Tennis	Monday Afternoons
Tuesday Fellowship	2nd and 4th Tuesday Afternoons
The Ark for Adults with Babies & Toddlers	Thursday Mornings. School Term times
Kestro (Stroke Club)	Friday Afternoons
Little Fishes Play Group	Monday-Friday. School Term times

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The CHRONICLE

www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle-online

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 Reformed Association of 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