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# THE OUTLOOK

Portslade United Reformed Church Magazine  
Part of the Hove and Portslade Pastorate

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Issue No. 706



Welcome  
Friend

## Minister's Letter

Dear Friends

On the night of The Big Moon (when the moon was nearer the earth than it has been for twenty years), my sons and I were fortunate to be on a school visit to the observatory at Herstmonceux. It was a crisp, clear sky that evening. The full moon rose red out of the trees, and it was truly beautiful. Through the telescopes we could see craters and mountains on the moon. We also saw the Orion nebula, which was stunning, as well as Castor as a twin star (each of the 'twins' of Gemini is also a twin star, but you can't see this with the naked eye).

On our way out, we were asked what had been the highlight of our visit. For us, it had been seeing Saturn, complete with its rings. Apparently, this was the highlight for many of the visitors. As one of the observatory staff grumbled: "The big story tonight is the moon, but all anyone's talking about is Saturn".

We can easily be impressed with the wrong thing. The big story is Jesus, but our attention is easily drawn to other things, like our own importance and power or the fear that makes us defensive against God and each other. Lent can be a good opportunity to re-focus our attention; to exercise some self-control so that we can stop being so distracted and learn to put more trust in God. There's only half of the season left. Let's make the most of it. Easter is coming.

I sometimes get blamed for the dating of Easter. It's not my fault. The date of Easter is rather complicated, but it is based on the phases of the moon. Did you know that you can tell if the moon is waxing or waning by whether it makes a D or a C shape? It works better in Spanish: D for Dios – God creating, and C for Christo – Jesus dying. Creation and redemption. Creation is fallen and broken, but Jesus' death and resurrection begin a new creation in which God makes all things new. God longs for us to be part of this as fully as possible. Let's make Jesus the big story in our lives, not just at Easter but every day.

Alex Mabbs

## Lectionary Readings

### Lent

#### *Intimate conversations*

3 April	<b>Is seeing believing?</b>	John 9.1-41
10 April	<b>Free to believe</b>	John 11.1-45
17 April	<b>Life changing conversations</b>	Matthew 26.14-27

### Easter

#### *Intimate conversations*

24 April	<b>See the dawn</b>	John 20.1-18
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The *Revised Common Lectionary* (RCL), used by many denominations across the world, is a common framework from which to read the Bible on Sundays. The RCL provides a three-year cycle offering a reading from the Old Testament, a psalm, a reading from a Gospel and a reading from one of the letters or Acts each week.

The ROOTS resources usually focus on one of the readings, exploring a common theme across the two magazines.

We offer alternative resources on the website when the readings in the Church of England's *Common Worship Lectionary* differ from the RCL.

This resource is taken from [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com) and is copyright © Roots for Churches Ltd 2011

## News of the Church Family

We continue to hold Ethel and Walter in our prayers.

Joan Glanville is recovering from the shingles she had and the recent fall. She has had her daughter looking after her for a while and is having some respite care at the moment. We pray that she will find healing and comfort from this distressing illness soon.

Hilda Brown is back in hospital having had a further operation on her knee. Pauline is in regular contact with her and Caroline and keeping us informed. We pray that the operation will be a success and that she will recover well and be able to join us again for worship and fellowship.

Florrie Degg has now moved to Greenways Rest Home in Southwick and she hopes to be able to attend worship again soon. We give thanks for her recovery and look forward to the time when she will be able to worship with us again.

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We ask for God's blessing on Kim and Lesley as they travel to different parts of the world to spend time with their families. We pray for safe travel and a time of enrichment for them both.

Clare Packham has been experiencing problems with her ears and hearing in recent months and we pray for God's healing for her at this time.

### **April Prayer Diary**

Sunday	To continue praying for Japan and all the thousands who have suffered from all natural disasters.
Monday	Pray for all those fighting for their freedom: Lybia, Afghanistan Bahrain and many places in Africa.
Tuesday	Thank God for the start of reconciliation through cricket of India and Pakistan. God moves in mysterious ways!
Wednesday	For you to be there as people enduring job losses and other effects of the economic downturn.
Thursday	Pray for Bon Accord Care home and Portslade Infants School.
Friday	Pray that God Grace will come into the hearts of racists so as to turn them from hate to love
Saturday	Thank God for all those working environmentally. Especially reintroducing species that have been lost in Britain

Is there any area of general concern you would like included in future Prayer Diaries? If so, please contact Pauline May

### **"Thank you!"**

Since the beginning of this year we have had both projectors working and using the technology in worship regularly. Most Sunday's there have been pictures used during parts of worship hopefully appropriate to what is happening. Some of the scenes have been of local places and some from places visited in the past few months.

I am very grateful to Nick and Richard for allowing me to use some of their photography and I hope to use more of their work for this purpose during the coming months.

Jayne

## The Opening of Project Gateway

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am saw the church packed with a variety of people all coming along to support and witness the opening of the 'Gateway Project' in 52. Alex and Louise, Roger, Clare and I all attended on behalf of the church. There were various speeches from Cllr Mary Mears, Leader of the Council; The trustees of Off the Fence; Paul and Wendy Young and Tina Johnson. After the speeches were over the ribbon of 52 was cut and we all took the opportunity to look around and share in refreshments together.

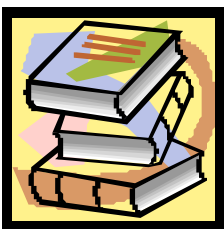
During the speeches it became very clear to me just how much this service is needed. The quotes from some of the women who have used the facility already is a real testimony to the need of the services Gateway is and can offer. It may hurt some folk to see another organisation using the premises but when we purchased 52 it was purchased for use with the local community. We ourselves may not be running this service but we are all involved in facilitating it by offering the resources that we have. When Peter and Kay McIntosh were with us a couple of weeks ago they were both very excited to hear what was happening with 52.

God has been there all the way on the journey and probably wondered what on earth was happening at times. He's been there through the good times and the tough times. We have prayed and worked hard to keep the building as it is and to finally see it being used for the local community is wonderful. It was good to be able to relate this to folk on Saturday so that they had more of an idea how this has all come about.

Please continue to pray for the project, for Off the Fence, for those who will use the centre, and for the staff and volunteers.

Jayne

## Book Sale



Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April  
10am – 12noon  
in the Hall

Drop in for a browse and a Coffee  
*All proceed to Church Funds*

## Easter Worship



**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April - Palm Sunday**  
Worship at Housom starting at 10.30am

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April - Maundy Thursday**  
Maundy Supper 7pm in the Church at Portslade  
Worship and fellowship with Housom

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April - Good Friday**

Worship at Housom at 11am followed by Open Air  
Witness at the Grenadier



**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Day**

Easter Worship at Portslade with Communion at 10.30am

## Royal Wedding Street Party

At the Church Meeting it was suggested that we as a church arrange a Street Party on the day of the Royal Wedding. Following discussion at the elders meeting and investigation into the legalities with the council we will be holding a celebration but inside the church front garden.

The celebration will take place on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April from 2 - 4pm. Everyone is invited to come along, young and old alike. The residents of St Aubyns Road will be invited as this is a chance to reach out into the local community and get to know our neighbours a bit better.

Help will be needed so look out on the notice boards and in the notices for more information.

## Nehemiah Project

**Thank you** very much indeed to everyone at Portslade URC and Housom who gave donations to The Nehemiah Project following the service on 6 March. We were really encouraged by your support, which will have a direct impact on the programmes we offer to men who are breaking free from lives of addiction and crime.

Our two supported housing programmes in South London are both currently full with residents who have either come



to us from prison or from drug detox. A residency in our structured programme helps men to bridge the gap between custody and community, and offers much-needed practical support as well as a much-needed second chance.

Very best wishes to all of you who have given something up for our FORTY DAYS Lenten Fast. Please keep a tally of the money you save through fasting from alcohol, chocolate (or whatever your 'fix' is!) and donate it each week via our charity fundraising page: [www.JustGiving.com/Forty-Days](http://www.JustGiving.com/Forty-Days) If you don't have internet access, please just send a cheque to 'The Nehemiah Project', 47 Tooting Bec Gardens, London SW16 1RF.

Lastly, but not leastly (!) ... please will you hold the residents at Nehemiah in your prayers, asking God for: strength to resist relapse, determination for their new lives, and for doors of opportunity to open for employment and stable long-term housing.

It was a pleasure to be with you on 6 March, thank you again for your warm welcome and your support of Nehemiah.

With best wishes,  
Rosie Mason

For more info visit [www.tnp.org.uk](http://www.tnp.org.uk) or email [events@tnp.org.uk](mailto:events@tnp.org.uk)

## Fairtrade Matters

### **New stock**

Pasta, cereals, chocolate, Guatemalan honey, Bombay mix...

### **New products**

Apricot Kernels (full of nutrition), Divine Dark Chocolate with ginger & orange. Lots of items for £1 or less including Easter cards.

### **Easter chocolate**

The new **Real Easter Egg** has proved very popular, Traidcraft ran out & so I was unable to order it last time, but will try again soon but of course there's still plenty of chocolate and sweets around. I have a couple of **Easter Egg Hunt**

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**Packs** left (6 foil wrapped eggs in a pink or blue egg box with labels you can use for a treasure hunt) and **Mini eggs**. The Real Egg can be found at some branches of Morrisons, Waitrose & the Co-op. 70,000 were sold by mail order alone. It was developed by a Church of England communication's officer, David Marshall when he realised no eggs were sold with any mention of why we celebrate Easter. Donations to Traidcraft & Baby Lifeline will help development projects further their projects too.

When you buy Fairtrade chocolate, it's with a good conscience & you can avoid bad companies like Nestlé. (Why? - because the URC nationally still upholds the boycott, due to their awful marketing policies regarding baby formula in the developing world - ask me if you want more information on that or look up Baby Milk Action [www.babymilkaction.org/](http://www.babymilkaction.org/))

A big thank you to everyone who buys even the smallest item, it makes a big difference.

Louise

## **Women's World Day of Prayer**

After sharing a day at Bexhill in the autumn to hear about the message for 2011 which we both enjoyed, we learned the Country chosen was Chile. At that time the trapped miners had only been rescued a few days before so to hear the Chilean story seemed very relevant.

March 4<sup>th</sup> 2011 saw 20-25 ladies and 2 gents share the day in our church and to hear our speaker Mrs Maureen Lawrence. Several friends for our two sister churches joined in the story and shared refreshments afterwards.

Diane & Jean.

## **Brighton Fringe Exhibitions at Portslade and Central**

**Brochures available in libraries, galleries & some shops**

### **Portslade**

#### **Art In Creation 3 19<sup>th</sup>–21<sup>st</sup> May (Fringe brochure p65 - 295 A6)**

Eniko, my students & I are all beavering away to get work finished for the exhibition & the invitations should be out soon.

Please put the dates in your diary, the more stewards and church members around the better. Most of the jobs can be done sitting down & it's really interesting talking to visitors. We'd also love donations of cakes and other edible goodies for the family night buffet & to sell during the general exhibition.

See the advert (below) for more details

### **Central**

#### **The Flowering Community 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> May (Fringe Brochure p 66 - 218 A6)**

Keren & co are also beavering away with their plans for the Flower festival, with art & community exhibitions

- Flower displays to well known Hymn titles by Hove Flower Club, Inner Wheel & church user groups.
- Paintings by Dupont Art Club
- Textiles by Louise Mabbs

#### **Floral Notes 14<sup>th</sup> May 7–10 pm (Fringe Brochure p 44 - 218 A6)**

Concert with Sussex Flutes, Dr Alan Ireland (Central's organist) & Rebekah Smith (Glyndebourne Youth & Central member) £10 includes Ploughman's supper

## Housom Fellowship

Tuesday June 28<sup>th</sup> 10 – 6.45

Our outing this year is to Chichester, with a 2 hour trip on the Chichester Ship Canal, with a cream tea being served.

On route we will have a coffee stop at a nursery, followed by a scenic drive to Chichester where there will be time for a visit to the Cathedral or shops and to find lunch (not included in the cost).

We will meet for a ride around the Bosham, Wittering's and Selsey area before joining the cruise down the canal.

The cost will be £20.00, we can arrange to collect people from all 3 churches if required, wheelchairs can be taken, please advice Angela if you require one.

If you wish to come contact Angela Bacon at Housom Church or on 01273 551926.

Angela is on holiday between the 8<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> April.

## An Easter Poem

He paid it out of love.

Our Lord died on Good Friday,  
But the cross did not destroy  
His resurrection on Easter morn  
That fills our hearts with joy.

Now we know our earthly death,  
Like His, is just a rest.  
We'll be forever with Him  
In heaven, where life is best.

So we live our lives for Jesus,  
Think of Him in all we do.  
Thank you Saviour; Thank you Lord.  
Help us love like you!

By Joanna Fuchs

## **Art in Creation 3**

**Louise Mabbs & friends present**

### **Art in Creation 3**

At **Portslade United Reformed Church**

Station Rd/St Aubyns, Portslade BN41 1AB

[purc52@ntlworld.com](mailto:purc52@ntlworld.com)

(Venue details - Jayne Packham 01273 770165)

Fringe venue 295 A6

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May to Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2011**

**10am - 6pm** plus evening events Thursday & Friday till 9pm

(FREE but donations greatly appreciated)

*Quilts, embroidery, textile sculpture ...*

#### **Cross-Cultural Collaborations 1 - England & Hungary**

Hungarian guest artist, weaver-embroiderer *Eniko Szentivanyi-Szekely*, reflects on her experience of living in London. Louise & students explore Hungarian art & culture.

#### **Fun with Fibonacci part 2**

Louise & students have been making 'An A-Z of Fibonacci' quilts. The basic Fibonacci grids are interpreted in 26 different quilting techniques - each quilt is widely different in colour and layout. Plus Eniko's response to the Fibonacci number sequence.

#### **All our own creations**

Individual work and styles

#### **Family Night - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 6 - 9pm** (Donations)

Buffet, Children's activities, Artists trail quiz

#### **Artists' Talks - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> 7pm - 9pm** (£3)

Eniko & Louise reflect on the development of their artforms

## The Girls' Brigade



### 2nd Portslade Girl's Brigade Company (Part of Portslade United Reformed Church)

We have all been really busy, working on our next badge. We are all looking at the Easter story. The Brigader's have been working on making an Easter garden (keep any eye out for that). The Juniors and Seniors have been retelling the story through drama and lots of very interesting discussions.

We all had a great evening on the 17<sup>th</sup> March raising money for Comic Relief, everybody took part in all the fun and games, including a silent quiz (yes we all managed to stay quiet for 35mins). I would like to say a big Thank You to everyone who supported us, we raised altogether £65.90.

Clare Packham

## Sanctuary Flowers



Is there anyone out there who would like to join Marie and Linda, flower arranging? No experience necessary, help can be given.

If you would like to sponsor some flowers, please speak to Lin or Marie and they would be happy to arrange them for you.

## An Easter Observation

If the Christ who died had stopped at the cross,  
His work had been incomplete.  
If the Christ who was buried had stayed in the tomb,  
He had only known defeat,  
But the way of the cross never stops at the cross  
And the way of the tomb leads on  
To victorious grace in the heavenly place where the risen Lord has gone.

Annie Johnson Flint

## The Boys' Brigade at Portslade

### 25<sup>th</sup> Brighton Company

(Part of Portslade United Reformed Church)



Thank you to those who supported the young people in their efforts to raise funds for Comic Relief. Sticky biscuits for the younger members and a silent quiz for the older ones all happened on the

night of 17<sup>th</sup> March (technology came in very useful for this) and the silence lasted 35minutes. It's never been so quiet! The total raised was £65.90

For our badge work at present we are learning about Easter and the events that took place. To help us with this we are building Spring pictures adding parts to it each week that are relevant to Easter. We have had some good chats about things that are important to us as Christians as well as why we do certain things and how we celebrate. Communion with the younger ones was very interesting.

We are always looking for new members so if you know anyone who might be interested please put them in touch with us. Finally please continue to hold the work of the BB in your prayers.

## Plant Sale

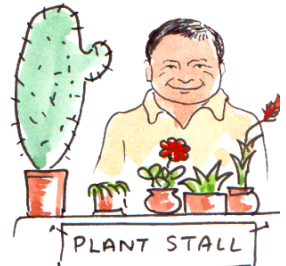
### Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May

I know gardens, greenhouses and growing is far from your minds, but it is planned that we should have this event again this year.

It is an opportunity to reach out into the community with proceeds going into church funds.

I will be seeking contributors and helpers nearer the time and would again thank those who have been supportive in past years.

*Pauline*



## Regular Weekly Activities

<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>(Every 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup>)</b>	9:30am – 12:00noon	Children's Breakfast Club
<b>Monday</b>	10am - 10:30am	Pop in for Prayer
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>(alternate)</b>	2:30pm	Tuesday Fellowship
<b>Thursday</b>	10:30am – 11:30am	Relax with the 52 Group – tea / coffee and dis- cussion
<b>Thursday</b>	5:45pm – 7pm 6:30pm – 8pm	Girls' Brigade Explorers Juniors, Seniors and Brigaders
<b>Thursday</b>	5:45pm – 7pm 6:30pm – 8pm	Boys' Brigade Anchors Boys' Brigade Juniors
<b>Saturday</b>	10:00 am - 10:30am 10:00am – 12pm	Saturday Prayer Group meeting in 52 Come to the hall for tea or coffee and chat

## The Outlook April Edition

**24th April:** This is the date for articles to be included in the May edition.

# Monthly Diary



*The Elders look forward to welcoming you, your family and friends to the worship planned here at Portslade.*

<b>3rd</b> SUNDAY	10:30am	Rev Alex Mabbs (includes Holy Communion) <b>Mothering Sunday</b>
<b>10th</b> SUNDAY	9:30am 10:30am	Breakfast Club Rev Alex Mabbs
<b>12th</b> TUESDAY	2:30pm	Fellowship Meeting with Peter Wainwright - "Comedy Films"
<b>16th</b> SATURDAY	10am - 12 noon	Book Sale
<b>17th</b> SUNDAY	10:30am	Worship at Hounsom <b>Palm Sunday</b>
<b>21st</b> THURSDAY	7pm	Maundy Supper in the Church <b>Maundy Thursday</b>
<b>22nd</b> FRIDAY	11am	Worship at Hounsom followed by Open Air Witness at The Grenadier <b>Good Friday</b>
<b>24th</b> SUNDAY	9:30am 10:30am	Breakfast Club Rev Brian Stone (The Service will include Holy Communion) <b>Easter Sunday</b>
<b>26th</b> TUESDAY	2:30pm	Fellowship Meeting with Mrs Jenner - "Wartime Childhood"
<b>29th</b> FRIDAY	2pm to 4pm	Royal Wedding Street Party in Church grounds

## May Dates for your Diary

<b>Sunday 1st</b>	Rev Roger Wood - service includes Holy Communion
<b>Tuesday 3rd</b>	Church Meeting at 7pm