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THE OUTLOOK

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Welcome
Friend

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends

God's ways are not our ways. We can only take one step at a time on our journey through life, but where God leads us is often not the destination we had in mind when we set out. In our pastorate, we are still learning and exploring what it means for these three churches to co-operate together, but we're not where we thought we'd be. Meanwhile, some other exciting partnerships have opened up for our churches, like ours at Portslade with Off The Fence. We are exploring what feels like new territory for churches after centuries of division as we put our own needs to one side in order to combine with others (who may have quite different views on some things) in pursuing God's kingdom. This looks somewhat grandiose in writing, as we're only just entering kindergarten in this respect. But I'm convinced that sacrificial co-operation is the way God is leading his church – building his kingdom and not our own empires.

The same goes for ministers. Roger and I are developing a model of co-operative working – not just as two ministers in association but as a team. We are ready to take a step forward with this, which may look like division but in reality is emphasising our togetherness as a team. You are likely only to see one of us at a time, but if we are a true team, when you see one you see the team. I once saw this motto on a school wall: "There is no 'I' in TEAM." In a good team, the individual members put their own glory aside in order that the team can do well. They don't compete with each other; they want the team to shine. A difference here is that Roger & I want God to shine.

We realise that we need to focus more sharply so that our gifts can be put to use more effectively, and so that we don't waste time duplicating what we do. We think that this approach will serve the churches better, but we will all need to adjust our expectations. The plan has the backing of the elders.

The first element of focus is on our calling as "ministers of word and sacraments." We think that the best way we can serve the churches, lead and care for the congregations and equip you in your growing discipleship, is by prioritising preaching and teaching. We need to be servants of the word, so that we can break the bible open for you, letting its light shine on your path. This takes time

in study and preparation, and we will try to guard that time in our schedules. We will also co-ordinate our preaching more fully so that there is more continuity for the congregations.

The second element is to simplify who will do what and where. We have already been working in this way pastorally, where I am the pastoral minister for Central and Roger for Hounsom and Portslade. This arrangement will continue, but we will extend it to other aspects of church life. An implication of this is that you should not normally expect the other minister to be present (including at social events). You see one, you see the team. The way this will work out at Portslade is this:

Girls' Brigade and Boys' Brigade: Alex. Fellowship: Roger.

We hope that this will help us to use our time more effectively, as well as simplify the relationship with a minister for those who attend the various groups.

If you want to ask Roger or me about this, please do. Let us all pray for each other, for our brothers and sisters in other churches and for all who are doing God's work in the wider world. God is reconciling the world to himself in Jesus Christ. Let us work together for the healing of division and, removing our own interests from the number one slot, let the Holy Spirit lead us to greater co-operation and community, love and peace.

Alex Mabbs.

August Lectionary Readings

Ordinary Time

Kingdom Tales

7 August	Doubting faith	Matthew 14.22-33
14 August	Mind changer	Matthew 14.(10-20), 21-28
21 August	Key holder	Matthew 16.13-20
28 August	Cross taker	Matthew 16.21-28

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.

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Back To Church Sunday - Who Will You Bring?

A mentioned at the Church Meeting in July – Back To Church Sunday will take place on **Sunday 25th September**. Start thinking now who you could bring to church on that date! When I return from my holiday I will have invitation cards for you to assist you with the invitation to a friend or neighbour. Watch out for more details next month.

Jayne

BackToChurchSunday



August Prayer Diary

Sunday	Paul wrote: Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again - rejoice. Phil 4 v4
Monday	Pray for Alex, Louise and family, Roger and Kim and all church family of the three churches, seek God's peace and healing for those in special need at this time and protection for Louise on her travels
Tuesday	Pray for Alex and Roger in the team ministry seeking god's blessing on our outreach - that more will join us to experience the joy and comfort of knowing - Him
Wednesday	Pray for those who serve our Lord world wide by spreading His Word and by their actions in bringing aid to the many who are suffering.
Thursday	Hold in prayer residents and staff in Saxon Court and those care homes. Pray for pupils and staff from all schools during the summer break especially those awaiting exam results. Seek God's protection and refreshments of mind, body and Spirit for all.
Friday	Seek God's wisdom and integrity for our Country's leaders as they address the ever increasing problems and concerns facing us and our world.
Saturday	Pray that the necessary aid will get through to the areas in Africa to ease the plight of the victims of famine and drought.

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



BRIGHTON FAIR TRADE FESTIVAL



6th - 7th AUGUST
10AM-5PM SAT 11AM-5PM SUN
FREE ADMISSION

This is your chance to see the biggest and best selection of fair trade goods whilst enjoying the sights and sounds of live entertainment.

Organised by Love That Stuff and Brighton Marina, expect Fair Trade products and food exclusive to this market. Stalls will carry goods from over 30 developing countries: Argentinean carvings, Zambian tribal textiles, Malian hand-painted throws; also big, bold and beautiful jewellery from

Kenya and Senegal, glass jewellery from Chile, coconut wood and pearl jewellery from the Philippines; as well as hand-woven

wall-hangings from the Altiplano in Bolivia; shawls and scarves from Rajasthan, |Andhra Pradesh and Tibet.



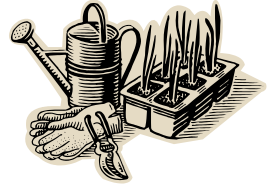
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Thank You!

Thanks must be expressed to Simon Markham for his efforts in the garden of '52'. He has tidied the garden, cut back shrubs and trees as well as planting a few plants. He has been working in the garden in the evenings when Off the Fence are not in the building and he has done a great job. Simon has been working on the garden and liaising with Tina so that the work that is done suits all parties.

If you attended the Fellowship BBQ you will have already seen how good it is looking.

Thank you Simon.



Helping those who need our support through The Basics Bank and Project Anti-Freeze

Over the past year or so we have been offering support at various times to both The City Mission Basics Bank and Off the Fence who support those in our society who need basic items to get them through the days.

I would like to encourage you to continue to do this. Every month a new list of items required is sent by both charities and these appear on the notice boards in the entrance of the church. Every week both charities help know end of people who for one reason or another don't have the things most of us take for granted.

If you are able to help with any of the items you can place them in the box under the table where the prayer request box is. John P or Joseph arrange for these to be delivered to the relevant charities who greatly appreciate what can be spared.

Please give prayerful thought as to what you might be able to give and for the vital work of these charities do.

Jayne

News of the Church Family

Holiday season is now well under way and over the next few weeks many of our Church Family will be travelling to see family and friends, as well as discovering and experiencing new places. To those travelling we hope you have a relaxing and refreshing time. We pray that you have safe journeys and look forward to hearing your stories and experiences upon your return. In particular we remember Louise who is travelling to Ghana and Lesley as she goes off to Canada.

We pray for God's blessing on Alex and the children as they go on holiday and that they will have a good time together.

We give thanks to our Gracious God for the power of prayer and healing. This month we remember

- Hilda Brown who has limited mobility but none the less back in her own home.
- Hilda Stemp is now back worshipping with us following her hip operation.
- Clare's hearing problem is progressing although not as quick as she would like.
- Joseph is back worshipping with us and give thanks for his return.
- Lilian who had a fall and is still dealing with the side effects of this.

Ethel Morris, Joan Glanville and Richard all still need our prayerful support. All these folk have health issues that make life difficult. Harry Golesworthy is suffering with his back at present. We pray for God's healing love to surround them all Please also remember Walter as he cares for Ethel, Clare as she supports Richard, Pauline as she supports Joan and Ida, who has her own needs, supports Harry.

At this time we remember Lin Burgess as she receives medical treatment. We pray for that she will back with us again soon. We ask that she is surrounded by God's loving, healing arms as undergoes her treatment and that God's love will surround Peter and the family as they support her at this time.



8 AUGUST Outlook

Worship During August

Our worship from the 31st July will be held at Hounsom and Portslade on alternate weeks.

Worship will be as follows:-

Sunday 31 st July	Worship at Hounsom
Sunday 7 th August	Worship at Portslade
Sunday 14 th August	Worship at Hounsom
Sunday 21 st August	Worship at Portslade
Sunday 28 th August	Worship at Hounsom



Anniversary Day Gift Appeal

The Resources Management Group, on behalf of the church, wish to thank everyone for their most generous response to this years appeal.

Donations totalled £868.18, which was around £ 200 more than last year.

Again, sincere thanks

God Bless

Fellowship - Summer

Saturday July -- saw a lovely day to share with friends in the garden of 52 for a BBQ.

Several of us enjoyed the sunshine made perfect with Simons cooking of chicken, sausages and burger, with salad and french bread. Lovely trifle followed this and the fellowship and laughter was great.

Saturday 20th August, sees the Garden party, here's hoping the weather is kind and the friends come.

See you there

Jean C.



Letter From Louise

Thank you for your help

I send a very belated thanks to all the people at Portslade, Central & Pam at Hounsom, who helped steward our Brighton Fringe art exhibition & outreach in May and everyone else who came or supported in other ways. I have been very busy finishing my commissions backlog and then getting ready for my Portugal/Ghana trip, so I haven't had opportunity to do a write up or assessment of it yet. However we think we might hold it later in the year and not during the Fringe next time, due to the added expense and Portslade not really being fully encompassed by the Fringe organisers.

Please pray for my health & safety during my visit to Portugal (for an international maths/art conference & Ghana on a textile tour/workshops) plus the family while I am away. At the moment of writing it is Friday before I go & my passport/visa still hasn't come back from the Ghanaian Embassy, who have been very difficult to deal with, so unless it turns up later today, or Monday my plans may have to change! (needless to say it's very stressful with Alex away too). I hope to be able to offer some of the groups talks about my Ghanaian adventure next year and to meet up with one of our former London church members when she visits the nursery she set up back home. I may even visit one of the 3 hour+ services in the Presbyterian church where they go. I will also be doing craft workshops with local street children and am taking some clothing & art equipment there for them.

Therefore there will be no Fairtrade stalls run by me for the next month, but please ask Val in Hounsom or Diane at Portslade for help or keys. Please let me know if you need anything ordering from the fairtrade catalogues for when I get back via email louise.mabbs.textiles@btinternet.com or leave a message with Alex. Food stocks are very low, so it will be a big order when it comes.

I hope you are all having lovely & exciting summers too & look forward to all your news when I get back

Love & prayers

Louise

Regular Weekly Activities

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

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers in the church on Sunday 10th July were given by Jean Cranfield in memory of her husband Dick and those on Sunday 24th July by Joan McAndrew in memory of her husband David.



The Outlook September Edition

21st August: Date for articles for inclusion in the September edition.

Monthly Diary

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

AUGUST DIARY

7th SUNDAY	10:30am	Rev Prof Robert Crawford Our friends from Hounsom will join us The service will include Holy Communion
14th SUNDAY	10:30am	Worship at Hounsom
20th SATURDAY	2:30pm	Fellowship Garden Party
21st SUNDAY	10:30am	Rev Alex Mabbs Our friends from Hounsom will join us Latest date for September Outlook entries
29th SUNDAY	10:30am	Worship at Hounsom

September Dates for your Diary

Sunday 4th	Rev Roger Wood: Worship including Holy Communion – Our friends from Hounsom join us
Thursday 8th	Brigades restart
Saturday 10th	Church Meeting @ 10.30am