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THE OUTLOOK

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Welcome
Friend

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends

Several times recently, I have had to think about disagreements in the church. Doing some studies in the New Testament reminded me that the church has always struggled to agree on various issues. Then and now, both sides in an argument appeal to scripture, or to Jesus in the gospels, for back-up. How can we find our way through and hear God's call? It seems to me that we need two basic principles.

One of these is finding a simple key for reading the bible. Maybe 1 Corinthians 15.3-4 is a good lens through which we read the rest of the bible. In these verses, I think that Paul is expressing the core of his message: "For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures." The simple fact of Jesus' death and resurrection shows God's love and grace in its fullness. Perhaps we can use this as the measuring-stick, or the lens, for reading the bible.

But that does not remove the difficulties. The other thing we need is to pray and talk together, making sure to include people with whom we disagree. If Jesus died for our sins and was raised, we cannot foster division, for example, by only mixing with like-minded people. We need to learn to speak the truth in love, because otherwise what we say cannot be true. "Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up", said St Paul in 1 Corinthians 8.1, addressing a contentious issue in that church. Knowing you're right puffs up your position and rips the church apart, but choosing to love someone not only builds them up but builds up the church.

We are on a journey of faith together, and it is only together that we can grow in faith in Jesus. It is a journey that includes the whole world for which he died and rose again. He came not to condemn the world but to save it (John 3.17). May God give us the same grace and love, to listen and to hear his word – together.

Alex Mabbs.

News of the Church Family

We remember in our prayers all the Children and Young People who are in the process of taking Exams. We ask for God's guidance for them all at this stressful time.

Joseph and Simon remain in our prayers at this time - Joseph is still in a lot of discomfort with his back and Simon had an unfortunate visit to hospital recently for Anaphylactic Shock. He is ok now but needs to be very careful with what he eats. We ask for God's healing arms to surround them and look forward to being able to worship with us again soon.

Joan Glanville, Walter and Ethel are continuing to be remembered in prayer each week. Life is not easy when you need to depend on others to help you or you are caring for a loved one. We pray for God's peace, healing and love to surround them each day.

Hilda Brown and Hilda Stemp have both been in The Princess Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath recently. Hilda B is there for a while following her second knee operation and Hilda S is now back home having had her hip replaced. We pray for their continued healing and recovery.

The Boys' Brigade at Portslade



25th Brighton Company

(Part of Portslade United Reformed Church)

This month it is good to be able to report that we have welcomed a new member to our Junior Section, Harley. Harley's dad use to be a member of the 25th around the same time as Richard.

Thank you to all those who contributed to our collection of Tesco and Sainsbury's vouchers. We are now busy counting them and deciding what to get. When we know what we are getting we will let you know.

We hope you will come and join us for our 'Celebration Evening' with the GB on Thursday 30th June at 6.30pm in the Church.

Please remember the officers and boys of the BB in your prayers and pray that the company can continue to grow and offer a varied programme to all concerned.

June Prayer Diary

Sunday	Pray for your "neighbours", whoever and wherever they may be.
Monday	Pray for God's blessing on the residents of Adelaide Care Home and the pupils and staff of Eastbrook Primary School.
Tuesday	Give thanks for the children who come to Breakfast Club and pray that more children will be encouraged to join them.
Wednesday	Pray that we listen to God as much as we talk to him.
Thursday	Give thanks that God's ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts.
Friday	Pray that we do not judge others. Only God knows all the circumstances.
Saturday	Pray that the money collected during Christian Aid week will help those in need around the world and pray for the safety of the aid workers.

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

Tuesday Fellowship

Now we are at the end of our programme for 2010-11 our Summer programme is as follows.

Sat.25th June	Strawberry Tea	2-30pm
Sat.23rd July	B.B.Q	12.30pm.
Sat 20th August	Garden Party	2.30pm

All priced at £3.00 per head. All enquiries to Harry or Hazel.

We wish everyone a happy and warm summer and will tell you all about our new events before we meet in September.

Jean C. Fellowship Correspondent.

The Outlook July Edition

19th June: Date for articles for inclusion in the July edition.

Hounsom and Portslade Away Day

Saturday 18 June 2011

Venue - Hassocks URC (10.00-4.00)

Come and join us for a day of renewal and spiritual refreshment

‘Partnership in the Gospel’

Worship.... Bible study... Prayer and reflection

Led by Rev Andrew Edwards MA, Mth

Partnership seems a bit of a jargon word these days, used in business, politics and other areas of social life. But the true meaning of partnership is found in this stirring letter of Paul’s to the church at Philippi. Paul valued their partnership immensely. It made his apostolic ministry possible. As we reflect on the past, take stock of the present, and seek God’s help for the future, there are few more important lessons we can learn than from this first chapter of Paul’s letter to this young church. Come and share in some of these fresh insights that will help us work together for the Lord, in proclaiming his gospel of life.

This is a special opportunity for all members of Hounsom and Portslade churches to come together for Bible teaching, worship, guided prayer and reflection as we seek God’s direction for our futures together. Alex Mabbs will lead our times of worship, and Andrew Edwards, our visiting speaker, will lead our times of devotions, and guide our sessions of reflective prayer.

The teaching sessions are based upon the themes of Philippians Chapter 1 and the times of guided reflective prayer will develop these themes in creative and imaginative ways that show their relevance for our personal life of faith and for the spiritual health of the church – then as now.

Sanctuary Flowers



The flowers in the church on Sunday May 8th, were given by Bill Stone, to remember his late wife Ann, on her birthday.

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

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

The Girls' Brigade

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



We have now completed all of the badgework for this session and are now concentrating on planning and rehearsing for our Celebration Evening on the 30th June (which everyone is invited to).

It was great to be able to welcome Ashley to Explorers just before Easter, we are hoping to have some more join soon. If you know of anyone then please let me know.

Some of our Girls are currently undertaking exams and we pray that they will stay calm and do well in whatever subjects they do. Clare Packham

Monthly Diary

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

JUNE DIARY

1st WEDNESDAY	7pm	Book Club Meeting in 52
5th SUNDAY	10:30am	Rev Alex Mabbs The Service wil include Holy Communion (Friends from Hounsom will be joining us)
7th TUESDAY	7:30pm	Pastorate Elders Meeting at Hounsom
12th SUNDAY		Pentecost
	9:30am	Breakfast Club
	10:30am	Rev Alex Mabbs
18th SATURDAY	10am to 4pm	Church Away Day at Hassocks URC Led by Andrew Edwards
19th SUNDAY	10:30am	Worship at Hounsom followed by lunch
25th SATURDAY	2:30pm	Fellowship Strawberry Tea Speak to Harry or Hazel for more information
26th SUNDAY		Church Anniversary
	9:30am	Breakfast Club
	10:30am	Rev Graeme Allan
30th THURSDAY	6:30pm	GB / BB Celebration Evening

July Dates for your Diary

Sunday 3rd	Rev Roger Wood - service includes Holy Communion
Tuesday 19th	Church Meeting - 7pm