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THE OUTLOOK

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Welcome
Friend

Minister's Letter

In the spring, my daughter planted two cherry tomato seeds at a craft morning at Housom. They grew on the kitchen windowsill and in the summer we transferred them to a grow-bag in the garden. I also put in a 'normal' tomato plant from the garden centre: I had three holes in the grow-bag and it seemed to make sense to fill the third one.

Isabella's tomatoes have gone mad. The vines have just kept branching this way and that; I've had to add more supports but they've found their own supports too and we have cherry tomatoes appearing in nearby bushes and flowers. The shop-bought plant has died – same grow-bag, same conditions, but dead.

In a passage that's been very meaningful for me this year, John 15.1-17, Jesus refers to himself as a vine and to us, his disciples, as the branches. He says that all we have to do is to remain in him and we will bear fruit that will last.

It's a picture of the church and of God's kingdom that has little to do with organization, but is very organic. The seed is planted and grows and grows, this way and that, until the vine spreads all over the place, bearing its fruit. It does this simply because that's what happens to a vine when it has life in it. Wherever the kingdom grows, it will find support in even the most unlikely relationships; the fruit of the kingdom will grow and ripen and the world will be transformed.

Maybe my shop-bought tomato is a picture of what happens when we try to cheat – when we try to save time and energy and take fewer risks by adopting someone else's programme or trust in forms and organizations rather than in Jesus himself.

We need to find ways of nurturing God's life within us, as individual disciples and as communities of discipleship. We need to be attentive to the

growth that God is forming, however unusually. It's about going with the flow of God's life – remaining in the love of Jesus and letting his creative life, his Spirit, produce in and around us the fruit of the kingdom of God as the vine grows through the world, this way and that. Programmes and organization are never going to be the solution. Learning to live loved by God is the source of real life.

Alex Mabbs

October Lectionary Readings

Ordinary Time

Kingdom Tales

2 October	The vineyard	Matthew 21.33-46
9 October	Banquet	Matthew 22.1-14
16 October	Authorities	Matthew 22.15-22
23 October	Law of love	Matthew 22.34-46
30 October	Practice what you teach	Matthew 23.1-12

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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A Sincere Thank You!

On behalf of myself and the family I would like to say a sincere thank you to all friends for your cards, prayers and kind words following the loss of dear Ida. I am so richly blessed by all the support I have received and to see the church so full for the thanksgiving service was really overwhelming.

Thank you all so much. Harry

Table Top Sale

Saturday 15th October from 10am – 12noon



Tables are available for you to sell goods for your favourite Charity. There is a fee of £10 per table. The Church will be having a couple of tables so if you have any saleable items please let one of us know.

To book a table please speak to Jayne or Pauline by 8th October.

If you are in the area please call in and have a browse!

You never know what bargains you might pick up.

October Prayer Diary

Sunday	Pray for Alex,Roger and the congregations of our three Churches.
Monday	Pray for Saxon Court,its residents and staff , that they should be well and live harmoniously.
Tuesday	Pray for Portslade Infants School for teachers,staff and all the Children,that they may , with Gods help,grow in knowledge and happiness.
Wednesday	Pray for all Christians especially those we disagree with that we might understand their views
Thursday	Pray for all the sick,that they might be healed or accept their conditions.
Friday	Pray for all faiths that we might understand each other,so that we may be more tolerant.
Saturday	Pray for peace and the end of terrorism throughout the world

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

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thank you to all those who came along and supported the Macmillan Coffee morning on 24th September. The hall was buzzing with people and chat! A total of £60.59 was raised and will be sent off to help Macmillan Cancer Support continue the services they offer.

Jayne and Jean

Autumn / Winter 2011 Evening Services

Theme: God's Politics

Introduction for Church Magazines

Religion and Politics

Many say that religion and politics don't mix. Yet a recent survey* of evangelical Christians (and I would expect similar results from church-going Christians in general) showed a far higher rate of participation in society than for the population as a whole. For example, more evangelicals serve as school governors or as directors of registered charities, and more are members of political parties and trade unions than the national averages. It's not surprising: throughout church history, Christians have sought to apply their faith to the structures of society, and have done so in a wide variety of ways.

In this new series of evening services, we will look for insights and pointers for how we engage with the way the world works. We will start with Jesus and other biblical material, and then we will think about some examples from history and from various parts of the world in which the Church has engaged with the State. St Paul, the emperor Constantine, Martin Luther, Karl Marx, Ayatollah Khomeini and George W Bush – they're all here. Come and see what you think . . . and think about what you will do. See the magazine for details each month.

Alex Mabbs.

* Reported in Inspire Magazine, 7/9/11.

Sessions:

9th October

The king and the kingdom: The Kingdom of God in the New Testament.
Led by Roger Wood.

16th October

The ideal king: putting Jesus in his biblical context.
Led by Alex Mabbs.

23rd October

'Release for the captives'. Liberation theology in Latin America and elsewhere: walking in the footsteps of Jesus?
Led by Peter Elliott

Autumn / Winter 2011 Evening Services (cont.)

30th Oct

The early Church and the Roman Empire: Politics in the New Testament.

Led by Roger Wood

13th November

Church and State: Christendom from Constantine to Cromwell and beyond.

Led by Alex Mabbs.

20th November

Christian Socialism in England: from Charles Kingsley to Gordon Brown.

Led by Alex Mabbs.

27th November

Religion & Politics in the face of evil: the German Church in the Third Reich.

Led by Roger Wood.

11th December

Religion and politics in USA: separate yet inseparable.

Led by Alex Mabbs.

N.B.

1st Sundays of the month: The Junction, 6.30 in the Ventnor Hall.

3rd Sundays: services will include Communion.

News of the Church Family

We continue to hold in prayer our church family and friends. In particular we pray for

- ∅ Walter and Ethel who are unable to attend worship. Walter's health has settled down a bit and he is able to drive again. He continues to look after Ethel who we uphold in prayer.
- ∅ Joan Glanville who unable to come to worship now due to her health. We pray for God's loving arms to reach out and surround her
- ∅ Colin and Joyce Noble asked to be remembered to folk. They were able to come to the church for Ida's funeral. They are happy in the sheltered housing they are living in. We pray God will bless them and surround them with His love.

News of the Church Family (cont.)

∅ Lin is progressing slowly. She thanks everyone for their thoughts and prayers. She was able to get to Ida's funeral and it was good to see her. We pray God will continue to bless her and her family as she recuperates under their watchful eye.

∅ Ann Waddington has by now returned to work following an operation earlier in the summer. She also shared good news about Olivia, her granddaughter who is

progressing well with her treatment. Anne sent a beautiful photo of her at her recent birthday. She is now 3 years old and just starting Nursery.

We prayer for healing to continue in both Anne and Olivia and for God's love to surround them all.

∅ Richard continues to suffer with his skin problems but has now started different treatment that will hopefully bring some relief.

∅ Clare continues to suffer with her ears and is waiting for a further appointment at the hospital.



A Request From Louise Mabbs

Hounsom will be holding an exhibition of Nativity Scenes alongside Fairtrade displays during the week before our Christmas fair

Do you have an interesting Nativity set?

Knitted, wood, clay, whatever Old or new, Big or small Foreign or British?

*Please send me a photo of it or,
If it's small enough bring it along for me to see,
or, Arrange for me to visit you*

If you know it's history, or have a special story connected with it all the better!

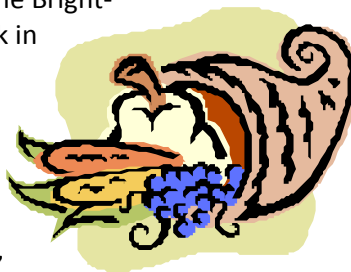
All sets will be back to you in plenty of time for Advent

*Please talk to Louise or Val at Hounsom for more information
Photos to: louise.mabbs.textiles@btinternet.com*

Harvest Festival - Sunday 9th October

Please bring along gifts for Harvest on Sunday 9th October when our worship will be led by David Walters. All gifts will be sent to the Brighton & Hove City Mission Basics Bank who help folk in need in Brighton and Hove. Please make sure all items are within the sell *by* date as there were a few items last year that were out of date and they cannot use them.

The City Mission can use dried foods – Pasta, Milk, Rice, Soups; tinned foods – meat, fish, fruit, beans, vegetables, soups, desserts; Tea Bags, Coffee, Sugar, cereals, biscuits. All of these foods can be stored as they keep well and can be used over a period of time.



Please remember to hold the work of the City Mission in your prayers as they seek to reach out and support the more vulnerable in our city.

The Boys' Brigade



25th Brighton Company

(Part of Portslade United Reformed Church)

We continue to meet on Thursday evenings and share some-time with the GB and some time on our own. In our badge work we are thinking about prayer with the younger ones and 'Superheroes' with the older ones. 'Superheroes' not only in a comic sense but also from the Bible.

The BB has recently produced a new set of programme ideas for Anchors and juniors and some of the ideas look quite exciting and very doable.

Can we remind you that we need your favourite recipes for the book we hope to sell to raise funds for our work in the BB and GB.

Please remember the work of the company in your prayers and we pray that God may bless us with some new members soon.

More news soon.

Jayne

Fairtrade Matters

Christmas catalogues will be with us soon, packed as ever with amazingly beautiful things. I hope to order a small sample gift selection, but most items will need to be ordered from the catalogue at least to begin with.

Christmas cards I will be ordering a set each of the packs from the Traidcraft & Tearfund catalogues & replace them as they are sold.

Co op account I have recently set up a separate account for our Fairtrade sales & orders which should be easier than using our family current account. It does mean I probably won't be able to order new items unless I've sold enough of the old ones, as we can't keep subsidising it, so do please keep checking for new products (or new stock of existing lines) or for food items with a small discount if they're getting close to a 'best before' date (This means it's perfectly fine to sell after the date, but the flavour may start to fade). I try very hard not to overstock things, but people going on holidays or me having to be away for work means your monthly stall may not always happen - I'm still hoping for stall volunteers when I'm not around)

Nativity Sets & Fairtrade Display

Hounsom Elders have agreed to have a Fairtrade event in the week coming up to their Christmas fair on November 19th. Exact time & dates to be confirmed soon. We are going to hold an exhibition of Nativity Sets & images alongside it, so please read the advert *on page 7* & see if you can lend us an interesting set. We will probably have some children's drawing art activities, so parents can browse the stalls in relative peace & we will need stewards to welcome visitors & keep me company, so I'm not on my own in the building. Friends who can spare an hour or so from any of the churches will be very appreciated. It's also a great chance for you to have a leisurely browse of the gifts on offer.

Church Meeting

The date of the Church meeting will be Saturday 12th November at 10.30am. Coffee and Pastries will be served from 10am in the hall. At the meeting there will be the election of elders and you can find nomination forms in the entrance of the church. Lesley, Richard and Jayne are all at the end of their 3 year term. Please give this matter prayerful thought.

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
Wednesday (every 4th)		Book Club
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 Outlook November Edition

20th October: Date for articles for inclusion in the November edition.

November Dates for your Diary

Sunday 6th Rev Roger Wood: Worship with Housom

Monthly Diary

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

OCTOBER DIARY

2nd SUNDAY	10:30am	Rev Alex Mabbs Our friends from Hounsom join us today and the service will include Holy Communion
9th SUNDAY	9:30am 10:30am	Breakfast Club David Walters HARVEST FESTIVAL
10th MONDAY	7:30pm	Pastorate Elders Meeting
11th TUESDAY	2:30pm	Tuesday Fellowship meeting - speaker will be Win Funnell
15th SATURDAY	10am	Table Top Sale
16th SUNDAY	10:30am	Worship at Hounsom (Harvest) Service followed by Ploughmans Lunch
23rd SUNDAY	9:30am 10:30am	Breakfast Club Worship led by Maureen Lawrence ONE WORD WEEK
25th TUESDAY	2:30pm	Tuesday Fellowship meeting - speaker will be Amanda Miller from Sussex Bat Group
26th WEDNESDAY		Book Club
30th SUNDAY	10:30am	Rev Mike Gardiner