

# *The* CHRONICLE ARCHIVES

*Spring, Summer, Autumn & Winter 2009*

*Volume 66*

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

# The CHRONICLE

Spring 2009



**On the third day he rose from the dead  
He is risen!**



*The magazine of Goring United Reformed Church, Worthing, West Sussex*

## 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

# The CHRONICLE

Vol. 66 - No. 618

Spring 2009

## Front cover :

A week-end away for Goring United Reformed Church at the Christian Conference Centre, Pilgrim Hall, Uckfield.

The group assembles in the grand Baronial Hall on Sunday afternoon before returning home.

Read and see more about what we got up to on pages 9 - 14

## Articles for The CHRONICLE

Closing date for the next CHRONICLE magazine is the 15 May

Details can be found on page 24.

[www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle](http://www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle)



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## Spring is on its way !

New green shoots are emerging from a cold and fallow land. Today I saw some colourful crocuses flowering in a sheltered part of the garden.

Spring is my favourite season arriving as it does after the cold damp gloom of winter and before the hot hay fever summer; on so many levels I favour spring. It is also a sign of Gods amazing creative process and by what we see all around us we are reminded of the dynamic ever-renewing character of the creator.



The weekend away was absolutely brilliant, Jill and I were really blessed by the fellowship we felt and shared, what a wonderful family of Gods children we can be. Thanks again to all who attended, and all who took part.



*Photo by Rosina Bailey*

My special thanks to Wilfred who recommended the venue and organised things so efficiently. Valerie who kept communication lines open: Geoffrey and Mary our music providers: Jon our visiting youth worker and John our guest speaker for the weekend.

Good news for all who could not make it this time, we will do it again, perhaps in two years time. I think all who came this time would commend it to others. I hope we can keep the spirit we felt at Pilgrim Hall alive to enhance the fellowship here at Goring.

Spring perpetuates His promise of life over death. As humans, this is the journey that Jesus leads us on when he says come follow me, it is a journey through life, through death and into life again.

On a personal level that may well take us through troubled times, through the dark valley, but we have the assurance that by faith we will see the light again.

In the church God is always moving us on to greater things. As I was preparing my talk on 2000 years of church history for the weekend away, it became very clear what clunking great mistakes in the name of Christ have been made

during that time. However looking a few years on in the pages of history we see that God provides a new vision, raising up new leaders and indeed giving a new injection of life to His church. Quirky sects and heretical teachings come and go but there is always this solid core of truth that persists and carries on through. As with our personal faith life, we as Christ's people are urged and inspired to keep growing and developing, so logically then the church moves and grows too through the ages. In church history there have been many points of change and new direction. This is where we now as the United Reformed Church find ourselves at a point of change for growth or perhaps a time of pruning. There are so many questions but so few answers at the moment.

Where do we place our ministers? - How do we fund mission? - How do we relate to other churches? - Should we join with other fellowships? - How can we identify and equip those among us with special ministries and calling? - Should we look for other partnerships? - Should we re-order our buildings to be more accessible to our community? - Does our corporate worship honour God or is it merely an arena where we can perform? - Are we following God's agenda or our own? - Should we stay as we are?

Actually the last one is a trick question; we cannot stay the same. Its not easy is it to decide which option to take?

That is why we need to seek Gods guidance; the same God who breathes new life to the season, the same God who did not spare his son to give us life eternal. As we move through the perennial season of Lent that leads us to the cross once again we have our problems and difficulties put right back into perspective. God has conquered all things through His Son to restore creation to its rightful state of perfection and to restore humanity to be fit for eternity. It is awesome that God has invited us; yes us, to be part of the process that is intended to forward His Kingdom.

*Yours in His service Andrew*

## Appreciation

We would like to express our grateful thanks for all the concern and friendship shown towards us since we moved into Ferring and began attending this Church in 2006. Everyone has been most welcoming to us over the months and we have been delighted to receive visits, telephone calls and Church flowers upon suffering bouts of 'flu/ chest infections etc. We do thank all involved in these acts of kindness and especially so on the last 'happening' to us when we were recently burgled whilst away on holiday.

*Alan & Alison Westcott*

## Fellowship Meetings

*- by Doreen Norris*

Unfortunately I have been unable to attend many of the recent meetings but those I did manage to get to have been most enjoyable.

The visitor to our Anniversary service was Commissioner Karen Thompson of the Salvation Army. The theme of her talk was "parties" and she spoke most movingly of parties she has attended - or given - in places all round the world where her work for the Lord has taken her.

Our celebration of Advent was a members afternoon and was an inspiring mix of carols, readings and poems. Plus mince pies and cups of tea to finish off the afternoon.

Apparently I missed a treat on December 16th when the Angmering Hand-bell Ringers came to entertain.

That was the second time I'd been unable to see them. I do hope one of these days our paths will cross!

On January 22nd Lauri Everette came to talk about and show us his lovely racing pigeons and Carole Culliss, has very kindly written a piece on my behalf:

"Lauri Everette brought along six racing pigeons and it was a delight to see such beautiful birds at close quarters. We learnt how the birds are chosen for breeding and the early lives of their two off-spring - they only ever lay two eggs, and when they are old enough, how the baby birds are trained to return to their home from places such as Exeter, Guernsey and even the continent. It was a fascinating talk and the pigeons behaved themselves, only cooing when the prayers were being said, and throughout the Bible reading".



PILOT'S NEWS

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We have had some new Pilots join us since the new year started in September and we started the year by planting tulip bulbs under Vic's guidance in the front garden. It will be interesting to see how they come up, they were planted in the shape and colours of the Olympic Rings, well more or less! We finished our Peace Builders project, looking at India, playing games and making sweets. Eating always figures, because it's what Pilots like best!

In the weeks leading up to Christmas we decorated the church Christmas tree and made wooden spoon puppets and gave a nativity play to our parents and a few visitors.

Since the beginning of this term we have refreshed our memories about Mary and John Williams and the beginning of Pilots.

In the East Hall there is a display of Pilot Badges, painted by the Pilots.



We are now learning to knit and will hopefully make some scarves for the Samaritans Purse shoeboxes next autumn.

During Lent we will be doing more craft work on an Easter theme and after Easter we will be starting our overseas project on Columbia.

## The Not-So-Secret Ark Diary of Joe Thomas, Age 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>

### Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November

I was so excited about it being an Ark day that I woke up at two o'clock in the morning! Obviously, by the time I actually got there, I was too tired to enjoy it ... There was a new wee girl called Rowan, with a Mummy who was half French and half German! We're very cosmopolitan ☺

### Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November

This week, the excitement didn't kick in 'til 3.29am, so Mummy had a bit of a lie-in ☺ I don't think she fully appreciated it though – strangely, she can be just as grumpy at being woken at 3.30am as she is at 2 am ! We went to the park on our way to The Ark (I'm a poet and didn't know it) which Mummy hoped would tire me out for later but actually just gave her sore wrists from pushing the swing .... Still, she did have the bonus of promotion: she was allowed into the kitchen to help Beryl with refreshments ! I have to say, she did look very smug, probably due to her close proximity to the biscuits ... They seemed to have a nice



little system going: Beryl did the setting out and clearing away and tea-making. Mummy stood there chatting to friends and making the occasional cup of coffee. Not sure that Beryl had the best of this deal !

### Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December

All I can remember is that I slept all through the night, and Mummy helped with coffees again. She may even have been promoted to table wiper too ☺

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

Today we made party hats for next week's party. Mummy did most of mine as I was too busy zooming around on the wooden bike/trailer. I have to say though, it still looked like it had been thrown together by a two year old ... After we had sung "The Wheels On The Bus", Mummy and I went next door to Little Fishes so that I could practise having lunch like a big boy. I sat beside Anya, who I know from church crèche. She's a big girl - nearly 4 - so I felt quite cool being beside her; I think the other boys were jealous !

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

I didn't get to wear my hat to the party - or see the Little Fishes Christmas show - because my silly big brother ate too much at his school Christmas party, was sick that night and then had to stay off school ! What a spoilsport ☹

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January**

My hat was sitting on the table when we came in ... in a way, I'm glad I missed the party, as it was a truly dreadful attempt at a party hat - Mummy really is rubbish. Next time I shall do it myself ☺ Today Chloe and I were really helpful and rolled up all the rugs when we were tidying away at the end. I don't know how Les has managed all this time without us ....

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January**

Didn't get there today, as the rest of the family were feeling a bit ropey. I was fine - awake from 2am - 3am demanding pasta and sausages no less - but Daddy was off sick and Mummy felt yucky too. Lightweights ☺

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**

Both Margaret and Hilary commented on how much more I'm saying these days. I'm still on the waiting list for speech therapy though, and am quite envious of people like Laura who can say lots of things even though she's 3 months younger than I am. None of them can drive the cars quite as well as me though ☺

Today's theme was circles - at the start of the morning Mummy was tasked with cutting circles out of old copies of the Radio Times, which she took VERY seriously. She was so thorough looking for circles that you would have thought she was actually reading the articles ....

The best circle collage was Kate's caterpillar - currently on the Ark notice board in the hall - I think I'll ask her to help me with my next party hat ....

*Susie Thomas pp Joe*

# CAN YOU HELP?

Are you able to spare an occasional Friday afternoon to drive the mini bus for KESTRO? Or maybe you know someone with time on their hands who would take a turn to drive the bus?

KESTRO is a stroke club that meets every Friday on church premises; and drivers and helpers enjoy an entertaining afternoon of either interesting talks, quizzes or games. Its an extremely worthwhile club for all those who have had a stroke and maybe are unable to get out and socialize as much as they would like.

Please contact Carole Culliss if you are able to help.

01903 264847



# CHURCH WEEKEND AWAY



## We Are The Church 1st Century - 21st Century Church

**Friday 27 February**



Forty-one people from St Andrew's Rustington and Goring Churches arrived at Pilgrim Hall, near Uckfield late on Friday afternoon for our 'Church Week-end away'. The last time that we met in this way was about 16 years ago, at the Links in Eastbourne.

Many have said that they hope it won't be another 16 years before we meet in this way again! We were quickly shown to our rooms and soon found our way around the wonderful building.



Our evening meal followed Andrew's introduction to the week-end, then we shared in a time of worship. Before bed there was time to listen to Mavis and Valerie who brought their accordions along and to play board games or simply sit and chat. Jonathan had brought his Wii, so hand bell ringing, a bowling alley, tennis, and a race car track were all available at the click of a button.

## Young Person's Perspective



*Playing a card game of 'Uno' Clockwise from Jon Baker are James, Ruth, Paul, Jonathan, Mark, Rosie and Simon.*

The young people's visiting leader for the week-end was Youth Leader Jon Baker from Chichester. Whilst we were in session they had their own activities. Some of their time was spent learning about how the church started 2000 years ago and its progress to the present day reflecting the theme of the week-end. They enjoyed a board game about Paul's missionary journeys from Antioch to Cyprus and Pamphylia.

Also they had time for a couple of video clips about the Spanish inquisition.

Jon Baker took them on a tour around the house and gardens, and spoke to them about Pilgrim Hall especially it's fine Baronial Hall oak panelled and hung with chandeliers. He told them about the differences between rich and poor households, and the slave trade.

A comment from Ruth - 'I had a great time on the weekend away. The food was lovely, and I learnt lots about myself and other people. I wouldn't mind going there again!'

**Saturday 28 February**

On Saturday morning, after a hearty breakfast, we all met again and Andrew led us in a short time of worship and praise. Following this Rev. John Proctor from Cambridge College, our visiting guest speaker, introduced the main topic for the morning entitled 'Opportunities and Obstacles' in the Book of Acts. He started by reminding us how the growth of Christianity spread from the Holy Land into Asia Minor and outwards eventually reaching Rome. The early Christians needed courage, opportunism,



flexibility and energy to make their witness a success and they had to face many problems.

Paul needed not just a Mission but also a Passion to succeed as well. John then outlined some of the problems we may find in the church

today and compared them with those found in the early church. He considered that a lack of early knowledge of basic Bible stories and truths today, made it difficult for people to have a framework on which to build the Christian truths that they may hear preached.

**Saturday 28 February**

With prayer, sensitivity, connections and hospitality we, the church, could succeed in getting our message across. The session ended with a time for questions and discussion.

After an excellent lunch we had free time to enjoy the 14 acres of grounds surrounding Pilgrim Hall, play table tennis or snooker, spend some time in the book shop or explore the area.





## Saturday 28 February

Our evening meal was followed with a lovely time of prayer and praise, and we were greatly encouraged by the music, the slides and a message of encouragement and hope following the reading of Psalm 138.

The evening finished with a Quiz organized by Val Gill ending a wonderful day of Fellowship.

*Mike & Rosina Bayley*





## Sunday 1 March

Sustained by a cooked breakfast, we read and discussed a passage from 1st Kings Ch 17 v 7-12 Elijah being sent to Zarephath and how God did provide. We realised how important it is not to isolate a passage but to research around the subject.

We then turned our attention to a flight through 2000 years of Christianity in 40 minutes. Andrew had prepared a most illuminating series of slides starting from the first Pentecost and the 12 Disciples, through the first generation expansion to the destruction of Jerusalem in AD70. We looked quickly at Marcion AD 140 and of the two Gods, the old testament God and the new testament God, to the first Ecumenical Council and the establishment of the Nicene Creed

and the expansion of Christianity, how it spread through the Roman Empire until arriving in England. We talked about the Baptism of Constantine and his worship of his Mother. Mary (Maryology), the seeds of Catholicism, and then Athanasius of Alexandria who identified the 27 Books of the New Testament. We took a humorous look at Simon Stylites who sat on top of a pillar for 37 years. Andrew had slides of Basil of Caesarea who formed the monastic system and the "Flying Nun", Serviane. We took a brief look at Mutual Excommunication of 1054, God v Scholasticism, the difference between the Western Church and Divided Church views of the Trinity.

We flew on looking briefly at Blessed Imelda Lambertini, Relics of the True Cross, The illuminated transcripts, and Psalm 151 !??? (not in our Bibles), Wycliffe's Bible, Tyndale Bible,

Martin Luther, Henry VIII, John Calvin (T.U.L.I.P), Richard Bancroft, King James 1611 version, and a brief look at cults. We landed for coffee, somewhere along the way we had visited The Book of Worms, a gruesome slide, (reminded me of Saturday's lunch!!!)

If you want to read more, Andrew recommends "The Lyons Book of Church History". After Coffee and before closing with Holy Communion, when we were reunited with the

young people who had done their own thing, we looked at" Where do we go now?" We realised that the modern church still suffers from the problems of the early Church, lack of leaders and (of course) money. The Church is still reforming. We looked at Worship, Nurturing and Evangelism. I have had to omit much, but we have been given much to ponder.

*Roger & Shirley Wilde*

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## Church Week-end Away Rhyme

A church week end away, you say, well that won't be much fun  
 Stuck with a load of Christians who don't know how it's done.  
 They won't know how to party or enjoy themselves at all  
 By the end of Sunday afternoon, you'll be going up the wall.

Well, it didn't quite work out like that, but surprises there would be.  
 The first one was the bedroom doors - they were all without a key  
 We didn't have to be concerned or hide our things away,  
 nothing at all went missing - where can that happen today?

Everyone was friendly no-one sat there all alone.  
 Some familiar faces others that were quite unknown  
 Sharing hopes and expectations of the time that lay ahead  
 Would the food be good and wholesome would we have a comfy bed?

We enjoyed a time of worship, fellowship and learning too  
 An excellent guest speaker talked of what the church should do  
 to learn from the New Testament and then try to apply  
 The things that we could do today to grow and multiply

Music, quizzes, free time, table tennis, snooker too  
 The time went by so quickly and the hours simply flew  
 Communion Service Sunday, nearly time to leave, I fear  
 But a very special Church Week End - Can we go again next year?

*Rosina Bayley*

## Buildings Presentation at Church Meeting

A presentation was given at Church Meeting on Thursday 5 March 2009 showing future plans and proposals for all of our church buildings.

- Approval was given that we should proceed with the renovation and alterations to the Cornwall Room area.
- It was also approved that a grant should be applied for to enable changes and improvements to be made to the East and West halls for Little Fishes Playgroup.

More information in next quarter's Chronicle.

*Property Management Group*

# Rowland Singers Easter Concert

## Goring United Reformed Church

### Wednesday 1st April at 7.30pm

The works they will be singing this year include -

Haydn - Te Deum, Rutter - Gloria ,

Vivaldi - Magnificat

together with other songs and anthems, among which are 'You Raise me Up' and 'The Lord is my Shepherd'

[signature tune from the Television show 'The Vicar of Dibley']

Tickets are £6.00 adults and £2.00 children

*We hope to see you there. Sheila & Roy Gooderham*

**MAKING THE  
BIBLE HEARD**



Worthing Bible Society Action Group  
invite you to

## **An April Evening with The Brighton Welsh Male Voice Choir**

*Free coffee and gateaux in the  
interval*

**Saturday 25 April**

**7.30 pm**

**West Worthing  
Baptist Church,  
South Street,  
Worthing**

*Tickets: £7.00 or pay at the door*

WWW.BIBLESOCIETY.ORG.UK  
CHARITY REGISTRATION NO. 232759



## A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and ministry of Rev. C. Cyril Franks 1920 - 2008

The welcome was given by the incumbent minister - The Rev. Russell Furley Smith after which we all sang the hymn, 'Praise my soul the King of heaven'.

Prayers followed this and then the first reading -1 Corinthians 1:18-31.

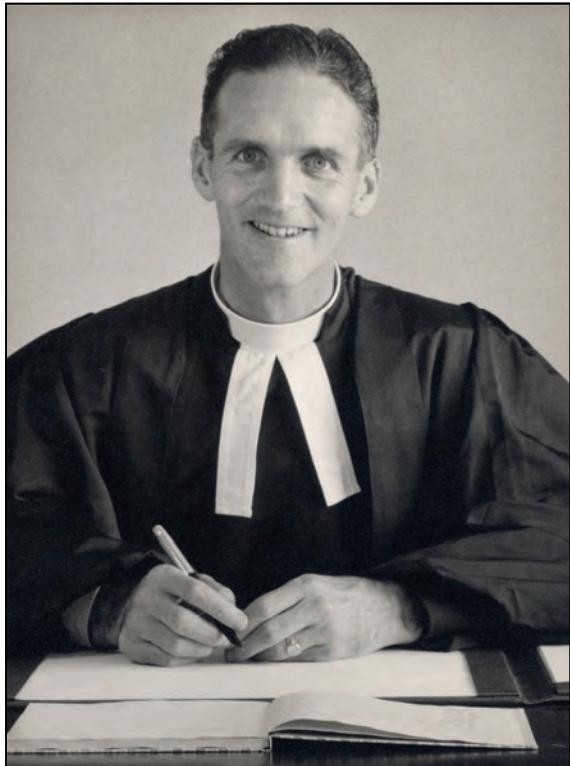
We sang the Hymn - Through all the changing scenes of life. The second reading was John 12:20-36 and then followed the talk by The Rev. Derek Wensley entitled - Memories. This covered the ten years he was with Cyril at Purley as assistant minister. He said that while working with Cyril he learned to become a 'workaholic', and the value of reading and study. Cyril inspired projects such as music, drama, social concern but above all awareness of spirituality. Cyril had a total commitment to his work in Christ.

Next followed the Hymn - Give men the wings of faith to rise within the veil. The address was given by The Rev. David Helyar. David based his talk on the theme - Whatever you do, put your whole heart into it. Cyril always thought of himself as a servant and put his whole heart into everything he did.

Everyone present had been influenced by him in some way or another.

He had great gifts but was still a man.

*(Continued on page 19)*



Rev C C Franks  
Minister of this Church  
March 1954 - June 1963

*Photo taken 1961*

*Continued from page 18)*

David went on to outline Cyril's life beginning with his birth in Southampton then on through to his calling to the ministry while he was still serving in the forces at the end of the war. On being demobbed he went to Theological College where he excelled and was then ordained and inducted at Abercam in Wales in 1949, where the young people thrived. He was called to Goring in 1954 where the membership doubled during his ministry and where the new church was built.

In 1963 he was called to Purley and thence in 1976 to become Moderator of the Southern Synod. In 1987 he was Moderator of General Assembly, and in 1988

went to Sanderstead as Assistant Minister. He was held in affection by all who knew him and will be remembered for his dedication and commitment to his Lord. The choir sang the anthem 'Go now in peace'. And then followed the hymn - 'Fill thou my life, O Lord my God, in every part with praise'.

The Prayers led by The Rev. Nigel Uden, were based on the symbols displayed on a table in front of the lectern. These were - a globe, a chalice, an empty cross, the praying hands, a model of a church and a Bible. After the Commendation given by the Rev. Elizabeth Caswell, the hymn - Love divine, followed by the blessing.

*Barbara Poplestone*

## A Poem from a friend in Rustington

### FRIENDS

When life is hard it's good to know  
That friends around you understand,  
And call from time to time to show  
They're handy if you want a hand.

It's good to have these hardy friends  
Who fit you in their busy day,  
And nightly, when their hassle ends,  
Do not forget you when they pray.

Lynette Nicholson

*Re-printed from 'Seasight' magazine with permission from Rustington Parish Church*

I knew Lynette through friends at Rustington Parish Church. She was an amazing Christian, wife of a previous vicar in Rustington, and was devoted to putting others before herself. Had she not died in December she would have been 92 on Christmas Day.

Her poems became legendary in her own time and one is re-printed here by kind permission of Pam Brooks, Rustington Parish Church.

*Hilary Redman*

# Animals of the Bible Themed Codeword

20	4	17	10	3	17	11		25	26	24	22	1	10	26
10		11		21		13		1				4		22
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10	2	21	9	9	4	10	2	24	21	3	17	11		7
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## How well do you know your Sussex villages ?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Oxidising XX CWT                      | 15 Where a lumberjack keeps doves                |
| 2 Mending                               | 16 Where the game bird feels ill                 |
| 3 What a matador avoids                 | 17 George never told a lie e                     |
| 4 Voting for your candidate             | 18 Sounds like where the five mile race track is |
| 5 A candle is no use without it         | 19 Byre  |
| 6 This monarch is sated                 | 20 Anagrammatically one past rest                |
| 7 Where a farmer keeps smoked pigs      | 21 'T' type crossing                             |
| 8 April 1999 - entrance                 | 22 Severn, Forth, Tower                          |
| 9 Inter                                 | 23 Kneelers                                      |
| 10 Free range for chickens              | 24 Decomposing cleric                            |
| 11 Large neither                        | 25 Ready to eat                                  |
| 12 What do you do with bottles of wine? |  |
| 13 Sounds like a high door surround     |  |
| 14 Culvert and a fish                   |  |

*If you need any help, speak to the author, Ray Elliott*

Mis-print on page 5 of the Winter Chronicle.  
The first paragraph should have read :-

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your good wishes sent to me in so many different ways, as I start this new chapter in my life at Caer Gwent. It certainly was not an easy decision to leave the flat in Carmargue Court where Ron and I had lived happily for 14 years, but I know I have made the right decision. Eileen Jordan

*My apologies. Editor*

## The Turks have a word for it too!

A few years ago I wrote a series of articles for the Chronicle, based on my experiences in Crete. Some were on the language, some on customs, food, and people. There were many interesting experiences and many new friends have been made.

Just after Christmas and at the beginning of this year, we went to (cold and wet) Turkey for two weeks to stay with a family. Whether or not this is the beginning of a new series on Turkey remains to be seen.

I don't understand why I knew no Turkish words from my childhood, as my grandmother often, and my mother less often, called me 'You little Turk!' when I was badly behaved. Some distant historical memories there, I suppose! I had intended to learn enough of the Turkish language to make myself understood when I got there. Ha! Ha! What a hope! The Christmas season does not spare much time for study.

I listened to a C.D. to learn a few words, but, never having heard the language before, it was completely incomprehensible, and, as both Greeks and Turkish say, for once in agreement, it was "all Chinese to me!" Perseverance gave me two or three words, like "Hello", 'Good day', and 'Good night', and then the written word with translation started to make a little sense. However, arriving in Turkey with a full blown 'flu cold and fever, into the coldest and wettest weather they had had in that region

for the last fifteen years, having to stay in the house for a couple of days helped me to learn some new words very quickly!

As time went on and we met new friends and acquaintances, more words were added. The daily television news, occasionally from an English speaking channel, but mostly Turkish, provided more. Printed headlines and sub-titles helped to stimulate the vocabulary. Whilst watching one day, trying to work out what the words were and sounding out the letters phonetically, I asked, 'Is that what I think it is? 'Filistin?' Yes, the news item was about the bombing in 'Gazze', and the word was indeed 'Philistine', or Palestine. How long ago did this war start? Not recently! I wonder what David thought as he stood facing Goliath with his sling in his hand, and what he would think of the present battle with the Philistines and the modern weapons of war.

I borrowed two language courses, one published in 2006, and the other in 1972. As I pressed on with the studies, I started to compare the more modern speech with what was the accepted norm of a language tutorial book written almost 40 years ago. Some student before me has pencilled in more modern words above out-dated ones. I could also see that many words had been imported from other languages and that there are many which have become familiar in any language as the world has become smaller.

The older language book gives much more precise and polite words and phrases, while the modern one deals with greetings only in the specific chapter – ‘Meeting people’ and then rushes ahead into other topics, assuming that you are as up to date as the speakers are and with the same ‘laid back’ approach to life! Words run together and endings are left off as familiarity has led to change.

The Turkish word for ‘Good day’, (‘Gun aydin’ – pronounced ‘Gewn aydin’), literally means ‘May your day be bright!’ ‘Goodbye’ is ‘I have commended you to God!’ (‘Allaha ismarladik’ ‘Allaha usmarladuk’) but the words are now run together into one word. Then there are abbreviations which correspond to our English ones. I wonder if they think as little of the words they use in greeting as we often do.

Language is constantly changing – it has had to, or we would be still grunting at each other with no words for thought and no means to advance our culture, but there are some changes which leave a lot to be desired, particularly with the latest techno-speak of the mobile phone and internet.

In ordinary life, when we meet and part, we can use words and mean them, or use words without a great deal of thought. ‘Hiya!’ and ‘Hi!’ are shortened versions of ‘How are you?’ but we can’t be bothered to say it properly.

‘Seeya!’ is a shortened version of ‘I hope to see you later on’ but we can’t be bothered. ‘Goodbye’ means ‘God

be with ye!’ and ‘Bye-bye!’ is a much shortened, lightweight version, meaning the same, but we can’t be bothered! You can probably think of a number of such abbreviations, which have degenerated into a quick and easy way of acknowledging another’s presence or their departure, without much feeling or meaning.

Funerals tend to make us think a little more deeply about the meaning of life, and we are more aware of the meaning of the words used in the service. My friend, William Stone, who recently died at the age of 108, whose funeral you may have seen on the T.V. news, loved to tell stories of his life in Devon, working on a farm and on the roads; his life in the Navy from towards the end of the First World War; through the whole of the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war, and his life as a barber and tobacconist until his retirement. He was always busy and hated in his latter days being unable to be busy. ‘Keep going!’ was his motto, and ‘Clean living, contented mind and trust in God.’ was his recipe for a long life, together with his bedtime prayer which his wife Lily had taught him: ‘Lord keep us safe this night, secure from all our fears. May angels guard us while we sleep, ‘til morning light appears.’ His favourite hymn was ‘Abide with me’. William, may your prayer continue to be a reality as you are laid to rest with your wife in Devon, and we wish you the true meaning of ‘Goodbye!’

*Mary Connelly.*

## Chronicle Archives

All issues of the Chronicles from the first magazine in May 1944 to the present day have now been digitised — about 500 magazines — and are available for viewing on any computer with Acrobat Reader [which can be downloaded free]. It is therefore possible to search through any one or any number of magazines for a particular word or phrase with about 95% accuracy. If you would like to borrow these to look through, please let me know - it's free !! They are held on a USB Memory Stick.

Already, during the last few months I have had a number of enquiries, including: — 'I believe I was baptised at Goring, would you know when?', 'My father was a member in the '50s, have you any references?', 'When did Rev H Springbett die?'. Who was the minister here in 1944? In all cases I have been able to reply with a positive response.

All original paper copies of these Chronicles are safely lodged at the West Sussex County Council Record Office in Chichester and are of course available for viewing in that office.

*Graham Redman*

### Articles for The CHRONICLE

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

- 1. E-Mail to [chronicle@gurc.org.uk](mailto:chronicle@gurc.org.uk)**
- 2. Via the website - [www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle](http://www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle)**
- 3. By post to Graham Redman  
5 Salvington Hill, Worthing, West Sussex. BN13 3AT**
- 4. — or in the red box located in the vestibule at Church.**

**Closing date for Summer Chronicle 1 May 2009**

**The Chronicle is on line at [www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle](http://www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle)**

### Weekday Activities

Goring by Sea Pilots Company. 5-17yr olds	Monday Afternoon/Evening
Tuesday Fellowship	Alternate Tuesday Afternoons
The Ark for Adults with Babies & Toddlers	Thursday Mornings. School Term times
Monthly Mid-week Holy Communion	1st Thursday in month 10.30am
Kestro (Stroke Club)	Friday Afternoons
Choir Practice	Friday Evenings
Little Fishes Play Group	Monday-Friday. School Term times
Bible Study Groups	Various times & days
Table Tennis	Tuesday & Friday Mornings
Games	Alternate Monday Afternoons

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*The Chronicle costs approximately 75p 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 Grace Ralph ( address above ). Thank you.*

**The CHRONICLE**  
[www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle](http://www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle)

[chronicle@gurc.org.uk](mailto: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 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](http://www.gurc.org.uk)

# The CHRONICLE

*Summer 2009*



*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

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*The magazine of Goring United Reformed Church, Worthing, West Sussex*

## 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

# The CHRONICLE

Vol. 66 - No. 619

Summer 2009

## Front cover :

All Things Bright and Beautiful - the Church garden, tended to, and well looked after by our friend, and one of our members, Vic Joy.

## Articles for The CHRONICLE

Closing date for the next CHRONICLE magazine is the 1 August

Details can be found on page 24.

[www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle](http://www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle)



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## What is Pentecost ?

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**M**ay 31<sup>st</sup> 2009 **Pentecost**, celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit in the form of flames to the followers of Jesus, as recorded in the New Testament. Jesus had told them to wait until the Spirit came to them. The name **Pentecost** comes from a Greek word which means 'fiftieth'. So what is Whit Sunday? Pentecost Sunday in the Anglican Church used to be a favourite day for baptism. It is thought that because people are often baptised dressed in white, the day became 'White Sunday' or Whit Sunday.

For some bizarre reason there are some other traditions on this day, particularly Bread and Cheese Throwing. In St Braivels, Gloucestershire: following evensong on Whit Monday, basketfuls of bread and cheese are thrown from a wall near the old castle, to be scrambled for in a lane below. The locals of St Braivels have been hurling bread and cheese since the 13th century.

Randwick, Gloucestershire: After rolling three double Gloucester cheeses around the church, one is cut up and shared

amongst bystanders and the other two are rolled down a steep hill.

Stilton, Cambridgeshire: Teams of four, in bizarre costumes, roll Stilton cheese along a 50-yard course. The prize is a whole Stilton Cheese, which weighs about 16 pounds. Cheese rolling also takes place in other areas around England but would you want to eat it after the event? Religion and folklore sometimes get blended together and no one really remembers the reasons. That is kind of dangerous for we may lose track of what we as Christians are about. Is it wearing white clothing, rolling wheels of cheese or being open to and receiving the Holy Spirit in our lives that is important?

Remember the Holy Spirit is a real person who came to reside within Jesus Christ's followers after Jesus rose from the dead and ascended to heaven [Acts 2]. Jesus told His apostles...

"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." (John 14:16-18)

The Holy Spirit is not a vague, ethereal shadow, nor an impersonal force. He is a person equal in every way with God the Father and God the Son. He is considered to be the third member of the Godhead. It is difficult for non-Christians or even many mature Christians to fully understand and appreciate our relationship with the Holy Spirit. *"Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!"*

2000 years ago the church was kick started into being by the fire and energy of the Spirit. In that upper room the wind of the Spirit blew in and brought about a radical change among the believers, just as the Spirit blew over the waters of chaos in the creation account in Genesis 1. Notice that the wind blew into the room but the believers were

anointed and filled with the Spirit as individuals. It wasn't the building that in any way became special or set aside to be the dwelling of the Spirit but the people. Isn't it interesting in our churches nowadays we fit double-glazing to keep the wind out. Is that a metaphor for keeping the Holy Spirit out lest we may be challenged with the prospect of change? I hope and pray that will not be the case here at Goring.

The challenge for us is to make the day of Pentecost an ongoing process in the life of the church, not just a one off event. We have embarked on a very extensive refurbishment of our buildings as part of a wider mission strategy. We recognise that the buildings are only one of the many resources at our disposal for worshipping God and proclaiming the love of Jesus Christ to all. However well the buildings are finished to be watertight and draught proof, let us keep a metaphorical window open for the Spirit to blow in, let's not get too cosy.



*Yours in His service,  
Andrew Sellwood*

# Fellowship Meetings

- by Doreen Norris

During my time of being unwell, I was unable to attend all of the 'Fellowship meetings', but I would say how much I have appreciated all the love and care shown to me with flowers, cards and phone calls etc. Thanks to all.

One meeting I was able to attend in February was entitled 'Miscellany', a very interesting talk given by our friend Simon Franklin from Littlehampton. Some of you won't have met him as he has been spreading his wings these past few years. His visit to us was his last before leaving Littlehampton United Church and retiring to Swanage. We wish him and his wife Jill every happiness in their new home.

On 28th April we were treated to an amazing trip to China - thanks to Bobby Hitchin, our President who, with her husband Mick had been there in January. Bobby told us of

the interesting holiday they'd had visiting so many out of the way places all in the freezing cold. (The pictures we saw had them muffled up to the ears!!) The highlight of the trip was the Ice Festival, an annual event held at a place called Harbin in the North of China, on the way to Siberia. No wonder it was cold! Of course it had to be so that the wonderful displays of ice carvings and sculptures could be seen at their best. The one depicting the Disney characters was particularly good, but it was all a magical experience despite the discomfort of the cold.

Thank you Bobby for such a splendid afternoon.

Our meeting on the 12th May we were delightfully entertained by Rev. Tony Trevithick, accompanied

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(Fellowship Meetings)*

by his wife Margaret. What a wonderful double-act they proved to be! We heard the story of their lives and their totally different backgrounds told in a 'Two Ronnies' style. They were so amusing..... Tony the Methodist, only child of a Methodist Minister, who would be moved all over the place..... and Margaret, the school secretary who grew up in one small part of the small town of New Tredgar in Gwent and hardly ever went out of Wales.

He, who was the only child of only children and she, who had brothers and a sister and parents who came from large families: so many Uncles, Aunts and Cousins. What a culture shock it must have been for Tony with all those prospective in-laws!! We were by turns, moved and amused by the stories they told and felt very privileged that we were allowed to share their memories. Thank you Margaret and Tony.

---

## THANK YOU

I would like to thank you for the kind thoughts and prayers and also the flowers I have received recently. The concern I have been shown has been lovely. I had the misfortune to pick up an unknown virus when on holiday in Egypt in December which has taken till now to go away. I was taken ill on the very day we were going to climb Mount Sinai in the steps of Moses - this being the reason we went to Egypt in the first place! With much love and thank you again for the support and may God Bless you. *Caroline Hibbs.*

---

I would like to take this opportunity, to thank all who supply, arrange and distribute flowers week by week. The floral arrangements are always admired so much. We must also remember to give thanks and praise to Him who made each little flower that opens and who made all things well. *Joan Burrage*

## The Not-So-Secret Ark Diary of Joe Thomas, Age 3 !!!!!

### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February

Granny and Grampa were staying, so when I slept in – catching up on all the sleep I missed during the night - Mummy went to help with refreshments leaving me behind in bed !

### Thursday February 12<sup>th</sup>

There were about 30 children today ! Fortunately there were plenty of biscuits to go round. I'm not quite tall enough to reach them myself, but if I hang around the serving hatch, people normally take pity on me and pass them down when collecting their own drinks and biscuits. I lost count today of how many I had, fantastic ! The theme at the moment is shapes – today's was "hearts", so Mummy took home a spare heart-shaped card from the craft table for Daddy to give back to her the following Sunday !! I also had fun at the play-doh table, after Mummy made the possibly misguided decision to show me how to catapult play-dough balls into the air by dropping larger balls onto one side of weighing scales ...

### Thursday February 19<sup>th</sup>

Half-term, so no Ark. I did see my Ark friends Laura and Chloe though, as we met up at Laura's house. Lots of biscuits, thank goodness !

### Thursday February 26<sup>th</sup>

No Les or Beryl, so Jane Bond had kindly stepped in to help in the kitchen. Mummy was technically in charge of the refreshments – eek ! She was a bit nervous and made her first cup of coffee with cold water out of a jug instead of hot water out of the kettle, but soon calmed down. This was largely due to Jane being so efficient: Mummy didn't need to worry about teapots or dishwashers, so she could concentrate on coffees and biscuits ☺ Mary took Beryl's place at the piano – thank goodness Mummy wasn't expected to do that as well, as her piano playing is restricted to "chopsticks" ....

### Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup>

Beryl was back, hurrah ! But still no Les and no Margaret either ☹ Silly Mummy had forgotten to warn Beryl that we were running out of squash, so offered to nip to Co-Op to pick some up .... I don't like squash myself, I prefer "bana juice" (Tesco's apple and banana juice). Sometimes I'll drink milk and

sometimes I'll drink hot chocolate. But never juice. So I don't have a drink at the The Ark. I do have lots of biscuits though !! My favourite are bourbons, which seem to be MOST people's favourite, judging by the scramble for them today ! And I'm talking about the Mummies here, not the children, mentioning no names Laura's Mummy and Rowan's Mummy ☺ My own Mummy seems to have been put off the biscuits after watching umpteen small children paw each one before choosing ... We sang "The Grand Old Duke Of York", which I like a lot as Mummy lifts me up into the air and lowers me down to the ground at the

appropriate moments – well, some of them. She complains that I am far too heavy to lift up and down for every rendition ☹

I brought Mummy a lovely plate of plastic scrambled egg for her mid-morning snack. She seemed amazed that I brought it over with a knife and fork .... I must be picking up more table manners than she realised !

Today's theme was diamonds, which by my reckoning just leaves us with ovals, rhombuses and trapeziums .... I was hoping for dodecahedrons, but apparently we are only looking at 2 dimensional shapes this term !



**Thursday March 12<sup>th</sup>**

Mummy seemed at a loss to know what to do today, as Valerie was helping in the kitchen instead ! I did notice that she sped over quickly to the biscuits, to take one before any tiny fingers wandered all over them .... Margaret was STILL on holiday, but at least Les was back. There was also a debut from Aine (daughter) and Penny (Mum) who Mummy had first met at a birthday party that my big brother Charlie had been to when he was one ! Hilary read us a BIG book about farms, and we sang farm songs too. I rolled up the carpet - I really don't know how they'd manage without me ☺ I had good fun walking home with Annabel and Elliott. Annabel is only 3 days older than me, but she can ride a bike. An actual BIKE ! I was very impressed. It wasn't as impressive as my stick though. You can find all sorts of interesting things on West Park Lane ....

**Thursday March 19<sup>th</sup>**

Stayed at home today as I had a bit of a cold. I wonder if they managed to roll the carpet up without me ?

**Thursday March 26<sup>th</sup>**

Another new attendee today - Jonah, with his Mummy Ruth. I know him from a Friday toddler group, so it was funny to see him here as well. I played with Annabelle at the play-doh table: Mummy made numbers out of play-doh, I said what they were, then I passed them to Annabelle and she squashed them .... Rohan's Mummy

helped Beryl with the drinks today - she reckoned that he wouldn't like her not being out the front with him, but he didn't seem to notice ! The big news of the day was poor, beaten up Hilary, ... Mummy hadn't liked to ask what had happened, but Hilary volunteered the information that she had fallen over whilst on a walk. Ouch ☹ Hopefully she was cheered up when Mummy complimented her on the simnel cake that she had used in her sermon last Sunday. [ Normally we don't stay to coffee after church because Mummy and Daddy get too frazzled by Charlie and me racing around, but Mummy said she just HAD to try the cake, so Daddy got doubly frazzled keeping an eye on both of us whilst she queued up ! ]

**Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Mummy was back on coffee duty again. Lots of Mummies were skiving off today and had sent their own mothers with the children: Laura, Anabelle, Elliott and Aine were all there with their grannies, not to mention people like Daniel who normally comes with his Granny. My granny lives in Shrewsbury, but with her new disastrous haircut, Mummy actually looks quite like her ☺ A special mention about Chloe, who brought both maternal grandparents, meaning that ALL her grandparents were present ! We could make Easter cards on the craft table, but I decided to make a birthday card for my Daddy instead ....with lots of pretty flowers. It'll balance out all the football-themed

cards he will get from everyone else ! Chloe's gran and my mummy rolled up the carpet at the end of the morning – noticeably worse than Chloe and I who usually do it ! - If you want something doing properly, ask a toddler ....

**Thursday April 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>** – Easter holidays

**Thursday April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Happy Birthday to me, happy birthday to me ! Well, not really, it was actually my birthday 2 days ago, but everyone sang to me and I got to blow out 3 candles ! Annabelle is 4 days older than me, so we sang to her first. And Liam was 2, so we sang to him too. Poor Hilary – slobbered all over by 3 small children trying to blow out the candles that she's holding .... Mummy was in the kitchen again, with Beryl. But no Les, as he wasn't very well ☹

**Thursday April 30<sup>th</sup>**

Les was back, which Annabelle and I celebrated by driving past him about fifty times on our wee cars, waving madly and shouting "hello" at the tops of our voices, which didn't get on his nerves at all, I'm sure. ☺ Mummy was in the kitchen with Beryl, looking forward to a quiet time as "customers" were thin on the ground ... but then there was a big rush around 10am. No Chloe again – I wonder if she's sulking that I'm hanging around with Annabelle so much now ? I made a beautiful butterfly on the craft table with Margaret's help and otherwise spent most of the morning cruising around on my favourite wooden ride-on complete with matching trailer. I'm SO cool ☺

We sang "happy birthday" to Poppy, who was 4 – as Hilary said, it's unusual to celebrate a 4<sup>th</sup> birthday at The Ark, as so many children are full-time at pre-school by that time. My big brother Charlie didn't even make it to his 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday here, as he was at Little Fishes by then. Mummy was more careful this time when choosing her days - I go there on a Tuesday and Wednesday instead, so that I can still come here too !

Beryl tickled me on the tummy as I was trying to tidy up ... I feigned indignation, but I don't suppose that I fooled anyone because I kept running back over to her with my t-shirt pulled up and my tummy on show !

*Susie Thomas pp Joe*

## Junior Church has been active in a variety of ways over the past months

On Remembrance Sunday we created Poppy Day cakes which some of you may have seen! We made our own Christmas cards and attempted a Nativity Scene with mixed success.

On 28<sup>th</sup> December there was a Food Sunday when the opportunity arose to make something Christmassy and we saw Father Christmas, snowmen, Christmas puddings and other festive delights to be taken home and eaten later.



It is always a privilege to work with children and young people and we always have vacancies. If you feel like joining in the fun regularly or on an occasional basis please see Susanna who will be delighted to fit you into our forthcoming programme. On Easter Sunday, Junior Church made and in some cases ate, two different kinds of Easter nests complete with eggs of course.



We have taken an active part in recent family services from Nebuchadnezzar to Zacchaeus and those who were present were also enthusiastic about making the bags for the Christian Aid service in May.

*Susanna Gauntlett*



## Redevelopment of the Cornwall Room started on Wednesday 20 May



Please share the joke, Jon !

'Worthing Glass' add a Fire Exit door to the west side of the building.

The new Entrance Lobby and access into the Cornwall Room is formed. At the end of June the walls will have been plastered, doors fitted, electrical work done and sanitary ware fitted.

The project is due for completion early in September.

*Property Management Group*



## An Alternative Approach To The New Testament

- by Alec Ralph

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**T**his article has its origins in two years of Bible Study of the Old Testament, subsequent conversations and discussions within the TLS Course. It is appropriate at this point in time to recall that Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit took place when the Jews celebrated the importance of the Torah [the law, the 5 books of Moses]. However, for Jesus and for the Apostles, including Paul, the scriptures are our "Old Testament", the canon order and authenticity had been settled around 160BC . Just think about it- Jesus the ultimate author of the scriptures, handled, read and studied our books of the old testament. Paul also quotes extensively in his letters.

The process of the coming together of the New Testament is a fascinating story. We are used to the order found in our Bibles, 4 gospels, Acts, Letters and the Revelation. This was settled between 325AD [ the council of Nicea ] and 451 AD [ the Council of Chalcedon ]. However, it did not happen quite like that, the earliest written books of the New Testament are Paul's Letters to the various churches of the growing Christian Communities. Under the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit, Paul wrote 14 [if Hebrews is included] of the 27 books of the New Testament.

He wrote to the growing Churches about their problems and set out the basis of the Christian Faith.

As the years passed these 'letters' were collected and began to form the present New Testament

The present order puts Paul's letters by length [Romans the longest first]. However, if you would like to read the New Testament in its historical order the following will help. It has been established that 1 & 2 Thessalonians were the first written in 51 AD. The Epistle of James was written about this time too.

1st Corinthians followed in 53/55AD where Paul sets out the order of the Lord's Supper. Galatians was written between 54/57 AD, and 2 Corinthians in 55 AD

Romans, Paul's masterpiece of Christian teaching dates 57AD.

Colossians, Ephesians, Philippians and probably Philemon were written either from Rome or more likely Ephesus where Paul was imprisoned. John's letters and Revelation are later, probably around 85AD

Timothy 1 & 2 and Titus were written towards the close of Paul's life 63/65AD. About this time Peter's letters were written to be circulated among Christians in the Roman Empire. Hebrews and Jude are dated between 60/70 AD before Jerusalem fell to the Roman Army.

As those who know Jesus personally and those who know the Apostles also died; the three synoptic gospels were written to encapsulate the events of the life and teachings of Jesus. Mark is the earliest written between 55-65AD, Luke and the Acts around 60 AD and Matthew in 70 AD.

The gospel of John completes the New Testament canon, written around 90 AD by the beloved disciple, to preserve the intimate and personal teachings of Jesus, and the promise of His return.

Should we choose to read the books of the New Testament in this order, we begin to discover how the Holy Spirit worked to create the New Testament and share the way our faith is strengthened.

*May God bless your reading of His Word*  
*A.J.R.*

---

## **ACTION FOR DYSPHASIC ADULTS A.D.A. (Worthing Group)**

We the members of the A.D.A. group were saddened recently by the death of Joyce Taylor our dear Founder and Chairman.

A.D.A. Worthing owes so much to Joyce as it was through her sheer determination and organising powers that it came into being – so much so that the Worthing Group was held up as a shining example by the ‘top brass’ at A.D.A. London Headquarters. At that time we were the largest dysphasic group in the country.

Joyce’s health began to fail about 3 years ago. She was wonderfully cared for by her friend Barbara until she needed the 24 hour care of a nursing home where she passed away in mid-March.

Our membership fluctuates but it is still a successful group carrying on as we did from the beginning due in no small part to Joyce Taylor and her early efforts in 1992.

We give thanks for her Life.

*Doreen Norris*

## **Chronicle Archives**

All issues of the Chronicles from May 1944 to the present day have now been made available for access and reading on a computer [ie. digitised].

It is therefore possible to search through any one or any number of these magazines for a particular word or phrase with about 95% accuracy, so if you would like to look through these old magazines, please let me know.

All original paper copies of these magazines are safely lodged at the West Sussex County Council Record Office in Chichester and are of course available for viewing in that office too.

*Graham Redman*

# The Big Church Day Out



On Sunday May 24<sup>th</sup>, several of our members headed to Wiston House along with 14,000 others for an exciting new one day event focused on gathering the church from London and the South of England to celebrate together that as church, we are all part of something much larger than just our own local situation. Through an exciting day of music, worship, prayer, fun and just being together, many people were encouraged to continue to press on for all that God has called them to, in both their local and wider areas.

The BigChurchDayOut was inspired and run by Tim Jupp, (a Goring boy and one of the founding members of Delirious) and his team in partnership with the Wiston Estate. Supported by both many local churches and national organisations that together have a heart for serving the church, it brought us all together to praise our awesome God and “Celebrate all that is good”. The weather treated us well, so with no need to head for cover or dodge the muddy grass, most people headed straight for the main stage to see YFriday, Graham Kendrick, Israel Houghton, Michael W Smith and Delirious, with Steve Chalke (Oasis)

and Jamie Haith (Alpha) giving some inspiring speeches. This was a fabulous opportunity to learn some new songs and join in whole heartedly with those we already knew.

As one of Delirious' last ever performances, it was a very moving worship session, with thousands of voices lifted high to heaven. There were two other stages with acts such as Kairos, Premier Radios' "Live & Unsigned" Competition Winner, Tom & Olly, New Direction Crew and Audacious, Kings Chamber Orchestra, Cathy Burton and Lou Fellingham. For the children there were lots of

*(Continued on page 16)*

(Continued from page 15 - The-Big-Church-Day-Out)

exciting things to do and see, including The United Double Decker Bus, family walks in the countryside, bouncy castles, Tiddlywinks Gym, a ferris wheel, climbing wall, Bible stories, drama with the Rhema Theatre Company, and the J24-7 Kids Team. And for those looking for some quiet time, Wiston Church was open for prayer.

Getting home was interesting – with just two narrow exits, an estimated 40 minutes to leave the car park turned into an hour and a half, but with everyone in high spirits (some playing ball games while they waited!) and Chloe asleep in the back, we agreed we would definitely return next year.

Mary Redman

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## Early Memories of Childhood Evacuation

### 1940-1945

Mike Bayley

When war was declared I was three years old and not at all interested in this momentous occasion. In fact I can't remember anything about it except I was told later that I lived in south London (*Herne Hill*) and had been born in Streatham. My first memories were as a young boy living in a small backwater town called Millom in Cumberland.



Millom, I discovered, was a town bordering the Duddon Estuary (*infamous now because of the Cockle picking tragedy a few years ago*) opposite Barrow in Furness, Lancashire, where they made submarines.

All this came about because our next-door neighbours in London had relatives living in Millom and they decided to move. As Dad was called up for the Royal Navy it was decided that Mum, her dad, sister and me would go and live in Millom until the end of hostilities.

So my life in Millom began. At first of course I was unaware of my surroundings but as I got older I became more aware of the change that had taken place in my life.

The house was typical of a northern industrial town. It had three small bedrooms, a front and back room downstairs with a kitchen/scullery off the back room. This led to a back yard with outside toilet. *[I thought that cut up newspaper on a bent nail was normal in toilets for years].*



The front room was not used much as it contained a Morrison shelter, a large steel cage with a metal roof that I used to play in with my Bakelite or wooden toy cars.

Outside the front door there was a very small garden with a privet hedge and iron railings. The road led to the Iron ore mine & smelting works about 500 yards away. I would often lie in bed listening to the men going to work in the mornings. The sound of their hobnail boots on the roadway and the clink of a billycan containing their tea used to wake me up.

Opposite the house was a grassed open space containing a large black water tank. All the children were forbidden to go anywhere near this in case we fell in. To my knowledge no one ever did. Beyond this was another row of houses where my best friend George lived. *[I discovered many years later that he became Mayor of Millom].*

August 17th 1942 was a momentous day as being nearly five years old I had to go to school. This was quite a traumatic experience for me.

Lapstone Road Primary School was built in Victorian times and had

separate playgrounds and doors for Boys & Girls. We all had to line up each morning according to our sex and were then marched to the hall for assembly before going to our classrooms.

The classroom was quite large with oiled wood parquet flooring and a series of long wooden desks. At each position was a slate & marker with a damp sponge tied on to it with a short piece of string. This was to rub out any mistakes that were made. The teacher had a desk at the front next to the blackboard & easel. There was a cane hanging on a hook beside her desk, although I never saw it being used. I believe there were about 40 children in the class and we used to chant our tables and alphabet out loud very frequently. I wasn't keen on school but I soon realised that it was something I would have to put up with, like bath night.

Once a week, I think it was a Friday, the tin bath came in from the scullery and was filled

with kettles of hot water. I was lucky as, being the youngest; I had the clean water as everyone in turn used the same water. I was usually tucked up in bed when the adults used it.

As I got older I was allowed out on my own. This usually involved playing with the other children on the green opposite the front door.

There was hardly any traffic of course and I remember the first private vehicle in which I travelled. Opposite the school, which was only about 200 yards away, was a builder who had a three-wheeled open back van.

We used to talk to him on the way home from school and one day he asked if we would like a lift in the back. Three of us got in and accompanied by much black smoke we drove the 200 yards home. It was the most exciting thing that had happened.

Once a week we went to the shops with the "accumulator". A glass lead acid battery, which was left at the "accumulator" shop to be charged up ready for the following weeks visit. We had a small-wheeled trolley to transport it on, as it was quite heavy. Without this battery the wireless would not work as we only had gas.

I had to be quiet when the news was on and also ITMA (*a radio comedy programme*), which the adults listened to avidly.

One day workmen came with burners to remove the iron railings outside the house and in the process set fire to the hedge. I remember this was the highlight of the week for me, as all my friends came to admire the burnt hedge and talk to me about it.

One day this strange man arrived to visit who wanted to kiss me. I was told it was my father but I didn't really know who he was. He stayed a few days and then went.

I wasn't sorry as he messed up the routine; we had to go out and visit places.

The house was on the edge of the town and so quite close to the countryside and the sea. We went out for walks quite often and I enjoyed watching the small steam engine pulling a line of trucks and discharging the red hot slag from the iron furnaces down the side of the massive slag heaps which were scattered around the town. *[On a visit as an adult many years later I discovered the heaps had all been removed]*

There were also plenty of footpaths and we would walk beside the hedgerows looking for rosehip berries and elderberries. The rosehips were sold as they were made into rosehip syrup and I made a small amount of pocket money from this.

My Aunt made the elderberries into jam. The berries were separated

from the stalks and then squashed through muslin, which was hung up in the scullery and dripped through for about two days. I was forbidden to go anywhere near this contraption.

Eventually, after a lot of cooking with the sugar the family had saved up from their ration, it became elderberry jelly. It was lovely on bread.

Nobody threw away anything. Old jam jars were worth half a penny each or three would get you into Saturday morning pictures at the cinema. Once a week the films would come in a big metal box from the station and the porter would walk with his trolley to the cinema to deliver it.

We boys liked to follow him and try to find out what was on, because not even the cinema knew what film they might be showing. Saturday mornings were always the same however, old pre war Roy Rogers western films and cartoons. How we cheered the goodies in the white hats and booed the villains whose hats were always black.

The war was now progressing well with very few air raids so it was decided it was safe to return to London for a holiday. The whole family nearly filled up a compartment on the train. Steam of course, first to Barrow, then to Crewe and finally to London. I had never seen so many buildings in my life although a great number were in ruins.

We stayed in Camberwell, south London, as this was where my Grandad's hairdressing shop was situated. Uncle Charlie, his eldest son was running the business and it was only at this time that I discovered that Grandad had been born in Germany in 1863, had emigrated

to England in about 1883 and obtained British citizenship.

I was told that this was not something we talked about, as people might think he was a spy or sympathiser. (*He was in his mid 80's so unlikely*). My grandmother was also from another part of Germany and they had met and married in England. (*She died in 1934, before I was born*).

At this time 1944, I was seven so very interested in everything around me. At the end of most streets was a smelly "pig" bin where everyone was encouraged to dispose of their unusable food scraps.



In theory, you placed your contribution in the dustbin and put back the lid.

Unfortunately, the authorities did not always empty them as promptly as

they should, so people would just toss their scraps in the general direction of the overflowing bins. The smell was unbelievable.

We had a black Scottie dog called "Mac" and after an air raid I would go out with an adult taking the dog for a walk and collect any bits of shrapnel lying about the streets. I still have a few pieces that I collected on those walks.

Nearby was Ruskin Park where barrage balloons and searchlights were kept. I found the balloons fascinating particularly when they were partially inflated and moving in the wind. They seemed so big.

On one occasion mother and I went by tram to visit her mother's grave at Camberwell New cemetery.

All the buses and trams had netting stuck to all the windows to reduce the effect of broken glass in the event of a raid.

On the way home after laying flowers, in quite an open area Mum suddenly made me run and we hid in a nearby butchers shop.

A low flying German plane had come over machine-gunning anything that moved. I still do not know to this day how close to danger we were but she told me much later that a school playground had been attacked a few hundred yards away.

On another trip with mother, I recall seeing a bombed railway bridge somewhere off the Walworth Road together with a tram with only the bottom half intact.

The night before we were to return to Millom my Uncle suddenly took me into the back yard and I watched this funny looking aircraft coming quite low in the sky making a very distinct growling sound. Suddenly the engine stopped and he said it was time to go inside. I remember the earth shaking.

It was of course a V1 rocket and I discovered later that it had exploded at Kennington Oval about two miles away on a block of flats killing many people.

That night for the first time I remember being frightened as I heard planes overhead whilst I was lying in bed and wondering whether they were ours or the Germans.

The next morning we all returned uneventfully back to Millom and a quieter life.

I was pleased to get back home to all my friends and to discover that a small ship had sunk near the beach where we usually played. The locals had already salvaged anything that they could find but I recall I did find a tin opener, which we used for many years. Not all of the beach and countryside was open; parts were blocked off with barbed wire, particularly the area around the iron ore mine and smelting works.

A fascinating place on the beach where all the children played was around a big metal pipe that discharged red water onto the beach. It was the overflow from the local tannery and I can imagine the

consternation of the Health & Safety inspectors now, but in those days no one worried and we didn't seem to suffer any ill effects.

In September 1944 my brother Anthony was born and so started noisy nights and people visiting to see how he was.

So life went on. By this time I spoke in effect two languages, the local very broad dialect when I was with my friends but apparently I switched to "London" as soon as I walked through the front door.

Rationing continued, but I don't ever recall being hungry. No sweets of course but then I had never had any. There were pictures of oranges and bananas at the greengrocers but I had never seen real ones - in fact I had to ask what they were.

The local farmer delivered the milk and we put out a metal jug covered by a cloth. One pint came up to the first rivet on the jug. Sometimes another man who I was told was a trusted prisoner of war accompanied him. I believe he was from Italy.

We played with all sorts of home made toys but I particularly remember a wooden hoop with a curved stick, which we would roll along the road and a wooden top, which was whipped to make it spin.

Christmas 1944 was especially memorable because I learned that this was to be the last Christmas in Millom. I made lots of daisy chain paper decorations but was very

disappointed that we could not put them up in the centre of the room; they had to stay around the walls. The gaslight was in the centre and the danger of fire was ever present.

Eventually the 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945 was decided as the day to leave.

I know I was very sad, as I had to say good-bye to all my friends at school and leave behind all my treasured possessions. ie old tricycle, pram wheels and other essential treasures my friends and I had collected over the years. I think I left them in the tender care of my friend George.

The 8<sup>th</sup> May was a scorching hot day and after the long journey we arrived in London in the middle of the VE day celebrations.

I was 7½ years old and returned to the family home in Herne Hill, to a strange house.

There was a huge celebration tea party and bonfire going on in the middle of the road about 50 yards away. There was no shortage of old wood to burn as two houses had been bombed previously.

I did not attend however as having travelled from Cumberland that day I was very tired. In any case I didn't know anyone.

So my new life in peacetime London resumed after nearly 5 years.

© MJB April 2005

## '.... but a short time to live'

- by *Mary Connelly*

**Some people will use any excuse to throw a party.** I intended to have a party late this summer but it looks as though it will have to be postponed until next year, because of an injury to the main guest, who lost several limbs and suffered several fractures in an unfortunate accident. (Her companions also suffered severe traumas in the same incident.) I am hoping that the cloning process which I am trying, using the severed limbs, will be successful. She is making a good recovery in herself, and the clones look as though they may survive and flourish.

It's a long time since there was a party here in our house that wasn't a Christening (last one 18 years ago); family re-union (last year in Cornwall); or Christmas/New Year (rather subdued here and in Turkey because of colds and 'flu); indeed, any party at all. So what was the reason for this proposed party? Was it to celebrate a birthday? Well, it's certainly a special annual event.

If the party should, after all, happen, and you get an invitation, don't be late! Make a supreme effort to be there by eight. Any later, and you may miss her. She's royalty, after all – a Queen, no less, and she doesn't wait around! Her name is 'Queen of the Night – of the genus *Selenicereus*. She belongs to the *Epiphyllum* family of Cacti. Selene was the Greek Goddess of the moon and 'cere' means wax.



This is a cactus which comes from the jungle, (Africa, Mexico) not the desert. Not liking the direct, hot sun, it can drink a lot in the summer and

grow at a fast pace to quite a large size and take over the room if not kept in check. The buds start to show as a tiny pin point in a notch in the stem/leaf very gradually getting bigger and a stem lengthens over several weeks until one day it is nearly as big as your hand, fingers and thumb touching at the tips. Can it get any bigger? Not really, for the day comes when there's a special look about it. There's a certain fullness, a certain promise. That very evening, just after eight, the pendulous, quivering bud starts to open, slowly, slowly, unfurling and opening, bell-like, filling the room with the most beautiful fragrance. It opens fully into a large, moon-white flower; its petals blushed with pink on the outside and with creamy pollen on the end of the stamens.



Reluctant as we are, we have to go to bed and leave it to the night. The whole house is filled with its fragrance and we go to sleep with the scent surrounding us. Next morning, we hurry downstairs to enjoy it again. Alas and alack! What is this that looks like a limp piece of seaweed hanging there?

The flower has bloomed through the night and drooped and faded away at dawn. Its few hours of glory have passed.

As the years fly by, I am more and more aware of the brevity of the life span and the imbalance of my achievements against the things left undone. Will I still have time to do them? Just a few? Pleeese!

Early one morning, I was making my way along the road and became aware of many children with parents or friends making their way to school, looking well fed and happy and ready to learn, with their lives before them. A little further on, I saw a Land Rover, and on the back of it a sign, which said: 'One Life, Live it!'

*Dear Master, in whose life I see  
All that I would, but fail to be,  
Let thy clear light for ever shine  
To shame and guide this life of mine.*

*Though what I think and what I do  
In my weak days are always two,  
Help me, oppressed by things undone,  
Oh Thou, whose deeds and dreams  
were one.*

*(John Hunter, 1848-1917.)*

## A Scouting Award for Doris Baker



In June of this year the Scouts held their annual awards in Windsor Chapel. Doris was invited to attend in order to receive the Silver Acorn award, in recognition of 60 years of distinguished service to the Scout Movement.

In 1946 Doris took her 8 yr old son to join the Cubs with the 2nd Worthing Scout Group, at the Elm Grove hut.

She was immediately co-opted onto a committee where she has served as a supporter to the Scouts ever since.

Congratulations !!

## Articles for The CHRONICLE

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

1. E-Mail to [chronicle@gurc.org.uk](mailto:chronicle@gurc.org.uk)
2. Via the website - [www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle](http://www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle)
3. By post to Graham Redman  
5 Salvington Hill, Worthing, West Sussex. BN13 3AT
4. — or in the red box located at the back of the Church.

**Closing date for Autumn Chronicle 1 August 2009**

The Chronicle is on line at [www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle](http://www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle)

### Weekday Activities

Goring by Sea Pilots Company. 5-17yr olds	Monday Afternoon/Evening
Tuesday Fellowship	Alternate Tuesday Afternoons
The Ark for Adults with Babies & Toddlers	Thursday Mornings. School Term times
Monthly Mid-week Holy Communion	1st Thursday in month 10.30am
Kestro (Stroke Club)	Friday Afternoons
Choir Practice	Friday Evenings
Little Fishes Play Group	Monday-Friday. School Term times
Bible Study Groups	Various times & days
Table Tennis	Tuesday & Friday Mornings
Games	Alternate Monday Afternoons

### Publication Team :-

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*The Chronicle costs approximately 75p 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 Grace Ralph ( address above ). Thank you.*

**The CHRONICLE**  
www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle

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 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](http://www.gurc.org.uk)

# The CHRONICLE

Autumn 2009

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All good gifts around us are  
sent from Heaven above

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*The magazine of Goring United Reformed Church, Worthing, West Sussex*

## 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

# The CHRONICLE

Vol. 66 - No. 620

Autumn 2009

## Front cover :

*Harvest celebration lunch after morning worship, Sunday 27 September.*

*This was also 'Back to Church Sunday' when 102 people attended for worship and about 95 stayed for the meal.*

## Articles for The CHRONICLE

Closing date for the next CHRONICLE magazine is the 1 November

Details can be found on page 28.

[www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle](http://www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle)



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## Harvest

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According to that fount of all knowledge - Wikipedia - the word Harvest is from the Anglo-Saxon word *hærfest*. Later it came to refer to the season of "Autumn", for reaping and gathering grain and other grown products. The full moon nearest the autumnal equinox is called the Harvest Moon. So in ancient traditions Harvest Festivals were traditionally held on or near the Sunday of the Harvest Moon. This moon is the full moon, which falls in the month of September. That, if you like, is the pagan origin, but what of the Christian context of Harvest?

Here is a reminder 'In the beginning there was nothing, and out of nothing God fashioned a universe so vast, so unimaginable that we can only sigh with amazement when we stare upwards on a star-lit night. And within this universe God positioned the earth and populated it, provided for it and designed for it to be a

place of beauty'. Scripture tells us; *'As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.'* [Gen 8:22]

The British tradition of celebrating Harvest Festival in churches began as late as 1843, when the Reverend Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall. Victorian hymns such as "We plough the fields and scatter", "Come ye thankful people, come" and "All things bright and beautiful" helped popularise his idea of harvest festival and spread

the annual custom of decorating churches with home-grown produce for the Harvest Festival service. Its prime purpose was to remind people of Gods provision (even existence) in a rapidly expanding industrial secular 'man made' society. Times have moved on in our post-industrial post-modern society.

So Harvest to us has moved on from a religious act to a faith act. This can be a great season for the Christian, it means so much more than the usual token bunches of grapes and flowers that decorate our churches, because God looks to our harvest - how fruitful are you as a Christian?! That's the challenge, we can't simply rest on the tradition we hold on to but we are called to do something inspired by faith to make a positive difference to our world.

A moment of quiet, time to listen, time to be still with God – what does he say to you this harvest time? Here is an old Korean proverb.

*"If you plant a bean, then you will harvest only beans, not grapes or strawberries." God gave us new life through Jesus Christ and planted special seeds of forgiveness and love in our hearts. What fruit will we bear in our daily lives?"*

And to end with a *Celtic prayer*  
We bless you,  
God of Seed and Harvest  
And we bless each other  
That the beauty of this world  
And the love that created it  
Might be expressed through our lives,  
And be a blessing to others  
Now and always. AMEN





## *"Love One Another As I Have Loved You"*

*St John Chapter 15  
verse 12*

How can we obey this command of our Lord Jesus ? Here are some ways in which we as a Church can respond : -

### The Prayer Book in the Little Chapel

The greatest resource the church can offer is the power of prayer through Jesus Christ. Jesus taught His disciples how to pray and spent much of His own time talking with His Father God.

The Church Prayer Book contains prayers of thankfulness and joy, prayers of sadness and concern. There are prayers for the sick, the dying and those in need. The prayers are written by individuals who would like the church to join them in their prayers.



You are invited to use this resource, either in person or by a messenger if you are unable to get to church. Alternatively send your prayer requests to your Elder or me, (the Pastoral Secretary) who will be pleased to add your prayer to the book. This can be done quite anonymously.

### A Team of Elders

We are blessed with a team of pastoral elders and visitors who in conjunction with the Minister, carry out our pastoral care. It is good to know that there is always someone in whom we can confide. Please let me, Hilary, know if you do not know who your elder is. Let us know if you are unwell or if you are in need of help. Don't forget to let us know when there is good news to share too! The name of your Pastoral elder is printed by your name in the handbook.

Book of Remembrance

In the Little Chapel you will find the Book of Remembrance. This book contains the names of loved ones who have died. These are 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 him know.

Confidential Forms

These are available to anyone who would like the Minister to know about their preferences concerning their funeral arrangements.

The Minister Rev Andrew Sellwood can be contacted by telephone, 01903 248259, or by e-mail: [theminister@gurc.org.uk](mailto:theminister@gurc.org.uk)

If you would like any further information about pastoral care at Goring United Reformed Church please do not hesitate to contact me at: 5 Salvington Hill, BN13 3AT, by telephone: 01903 260568, or by e-mail: [pastoral@gurc.org.uk](mailto:pastoral@gurc.org.uk).

The forms are kept confidentially to be opened only in case of need. Whether you live alone, or not, these forms can give peace of mind and avoid possible confusion at a later date, so please ask for this resource.

Flowers

The flowers which are prepared each week to enhance the worship on Sundays are usually shared between members and friends at the beginning of the following week. If you know of someone who would appreciate a bunch of flowers and a message to tell them that their church friends are mindful of them, both in joy and in sadness, then please let me know. If you would like to make a donation to the cost of providing the flowers please let me or Carol Webber know.

The Handbook

This little book is a directory of names of all who are associated with the church. It also gives the names of elders and lists resources, with other 'useful' information. If you would like your name to be added to this publication please let me know.

It is also available in large print.

*Hilary Redman, Pastoral Secretary*

## Les Richardson -

21 June 1930 - 19 September 2009

*At the funeral service on 29 September, Hilary gave a tribute to the life of Les, and it is printed here for the benefit of those who were not able to attend on that special day.*



Photo taken by his daughter Anne on his last birthday.

You would not be here if you had not rubbed shoulders with Les either as a member of his family, or as a friend, a work mate or a leisure time companion.

One thing is sure, that those who were fortunate enough to have been part of his circle, have much to be grateful for.

Where and how did you meet him ?

You are his wife or his son or his daughter - maybe a precious grandchild. You will have so many memories to share.

Perhaps you met him in a choir: he sang in choirs wherever he lived, and forged some of his closest relationships throughout his choral life. Maybe you sang bass with him or, when occasion demanded, he could also help the tenors out. Beryl says this always made him snore later on that night !

He was a wonderful organiser. Did you ever go out to a meal he had arranged or perhaps a concert ? You can see the little choir boys now, carrying their lanterns to sing Christmas carols at the Festival Hall.

Perhaps you danced ! - another hobby which won Beryl and Les bronze, silver, and gold medals.

You might well have been a passenger in his car, did he take you to the shops ? - did he help you with meals on wheels, or collect your prescription and take it to the chemist? If so he would have delivered the medication to your door. - or perhaps he took you to Kestro.

Lately he bought a new car - a Renault Clio, but it had to go back within a week or two because it just wasn't big enough to carry all his passengers. He swapped it for the bigger Megane - he was always willing to make you his passenger.

Perhaps you met him at the door of the Ark, the toddler group where he was the 'Bouncer' Only those whom he recognised would be allowed in with a cheery "Hello Sunshine" a name that would have equally suited himself. It was at the Ark that he became famous for harmonising the nursery rhymes, and raising his voice

to shout out "Fire, Fire" in London's Burning. Were you ever treated to his jokes? sometimes spoken to shock just a little, but always with a saucy twinkle in his eye ! You will remember the jokes he made when you were there, and how he made you laugh.

Do you remember when he worked as an accountant in aviation insurance, or when he was the treasurer of the allotment society ?  
- Do you remember a time when church, singing and going to work were not enough so he joined the Surrey Special Constabulary where he became a Sergeant. What better

qualification for a 'Bouncer' ?

Perhaps you played bowls, and wore the same tie.

Memories - they come haphazard, tumbling into the mind, one thought leading to another - so remind each other of the times you have had with Les. See what memories you share. Talk about Les as often as you can, this man whose coming into your life has blessed you.

He and his memory are God's gift to us who must now carry on. Let us thank God for those memories and ask that they will keep coming, and cheer us up on our own life's journey.

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## PULPIT SUPPLY

It is now 5 years since I took on the job of Pulpit Supply Secretary. Robin Bradley had done it for a long time and was such a hard act to follow that when she moved away I was really scared. This is by way of a Thank You to all those with whom I come in to contact whilst doing the job.

There are more people than you would imagine: starting with the Preaching Plan arranged by Wilfred - visiting Ministers who send me their chosen orders of service (Andrew phones), details of which are passed on to Geoffrey who needs to know the hymns he is to play, and the 4 folk who print the details in the Welcome each and every Sunday - month by month. I give my whole hearted thanks to all these people - I couldn't do it without them.

This though really is a tribute to my special group of people - The Readers. I am so grateful to have you all to call upon, and you are always so willing. You thank ME for asking you!!

I feel I must mention Alec and Ken, both of whom have asked that their names be removed from the list as they no longer feel up to continuing. The two of them have shared worship with us all for a long time. Les too, has more recently been a willing reader until too poorly to continue. Thank you to all three. God Bless you all.

PS If you are not on my Readers list and feel a strong urge to do an occasional stint at the lectern I would be very pleased to welcome you. Think about it!

*Doreen Norris*

# The Organ

The organ at Goring United Reformed Church began life in the 1930s in the village of Thundridge just north of Ware in Hertfordshire. It was built by or for the parish priest of St Mary's who at that time [1925-1959] was Rev Samuel Luscombe. As far as I can tell, the organ was never installed in St Mary's. Instead, it was assembled in a large barn (which has long since gone) for Rev Luscombe's own use.



The Parish Church of St Mary's, Thundridge

In 1958, the organ was rebuilt with electric action and detached console, the work carried out by Henry Willis & Sons Ltd. When Rev Luscombe died the following year, the organ was taken into stock by Willis & Sons Ltd.

At about the same time, the Church here in Goring was growing fast. People often had to queue up to get in, especially on festival days when extra services had to be taken to cope with the demand. By 1960, plans had been drawn up for a new church building that would be able to seat about three-hundred, and an Organ Committee was set up to explore the options surrounding the acquisition of an appropriate instrument. At the August Church Meeting of 1960, the Organ Committee brought their findings before the Church members and recommended that the "Ex-Thundridge" organ was "the best that the Church could acquire" and that "immediate steps be taken to secure it". At the March Church Meeting of 1961, following a very generous and anonymous donation, the Church members agreed to the purchase of the organ and to incorporating an additional stop, the Nazard, into the final specification. The organ was reconditioned and improved by Henry Willis & Sons Ltd. and installed over the summer months of 1961, with Mr Henry Willis himself attending to the re-voicing work. This would be ready for the church opening in September 1961.



Above:  
Some of the pipes in the  
Great Organ [West chamber]

Below:  
Inside the Great Organ Soundboard (West chamber)  
showing the pneumatic motors and the pallets.



Swell Organ (East chamber)  
Draw stop box removed.



Great Organ (West chamber)  
Soundboard with the upper boards  
removed exposing the sliders.

The total cost of the new organ was £2,927.13s 6d. In July the following year (1962), the organ console was extended to provide an extended base; a side panel with a removable top section; a back panel with a glass section; and an access door. The cost of this work was £81 18s 3d. In June 1982, the Church decided to terminate the contract with Henry

Willis & Sons Ltd. due to rising costs and financial difficulties, and after a period of six months notice, on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1982, the Church signed a new Organ Tuning Contract with Morgan & Smith Ltd. Starting on 7 January 1985, and lasting about eight weeks, the organ was cleaned and overhauled by Morgan & Smith.

The Great soundboard required special attention as did the Swell drawstop box. Other notable additions during this work are the installation of an additional thumb piston on the Great and a Great to Pedal toe piston.

The final bill for the work was £6,575.70

On 1<sup>st</sup> September 2005, following the retirement of the Managing Director, Mr R. L. Robinson, Morgan & Smith Ltd. was incorporated into F. H. Browne & Sons (Organ Builders) Ltd. of Canterbury who continue the tuning and maintenance of the organ today.

Due to a growing number of problems with the organ, in August 2008 the organ was inspected by a professional independent organ advisor, and an estimate for repair work was obtained based on the recommendations in his report. It was decided that a complete overhaul of the instrument was not necessary at this time but that urgent repairs be carried out. The organ is made of wood and fine leather parts and is greatly affected by changes in temperature and humidity. The advisor pointed out that the heating system we have is the worst type for an organ and that unless we address this, the problems we have with the organ will surely return in the future.



Removing the Bourdon pipes early in September 2009



Some of the damaged Bourdon pipes

I hope you now know a little more about the organ than you did a few moments ago, about its history and of some of the problems. If you would like to know more please ask.

*Geoffrey Redman*

## Organ Specification :

### **GREAT ORGAN - West chamber**

Open Diapason No. 1	8ft
Open Diapason	8ft
Stopped Diapason	8ft
Dulciana	8ft
Principal	4ft
Nazard (added 1961)	2 $\frac{2}{3}$ ft
Flageolet	2ft

### **SWELL ORGAN - East chamber**

Open Diapason	8ft
Lieblich Gedackt	8ft
Viola da Gamba	8ft
Voix Celeste	8ft
Fugara	4ft
Fifteenth	2ft
Trumpet	8ft
Tremulant	

### **PEDAL ORGAN**

Open Diapason	16ft
Bourdon	16ft
Bass Flute	8ft

### **Accessories:**

- 3 thumb pistons to Great and Pedal
- 3 thumb pistons to Swell and Pedal
- Reversible toe piston to Great to Pedal
- Balanced Swell pedal
- Blowing: Electric (BOB 1961)

### **Couplers:**

- Swell to Great
- Swell super-Octave to Great
- Swell sub-Octave to Great
- Swell super-Octave
- Swell sub-Octave
- Great to Pedal
- Swell to Pedal

# Cornwall Room

## ... from start in May

*For those involved with the building programme see back page.*



↑ Before the start of works early in May.

Initial breakthrough & plastering →

↓ Examining the exterior



Forming the all important box gutter and new skylights.



New roof felted & watertight.



Lifting one of the 1½ton steel joists into position. →





Removing the concrete lintel  
←  
Demolishing some of the walls.  
→



Beginning to see results now the walls have been removed.  
←  
Electrical installation and fitting the large double doors.  
→



← Cutting through the driveway for the new and enlarged soak-a-way.



← Heating installation.  
Painting & decorating ↓



↑ The new Entrance lobby & kitchen area. ↑

- and the completed project →



... to finish in September

# The Ark



A group for adults with babies and toddlers

At the end of the Summer term 2009, it is good to be able to say that over 60 adults with children have visited us during the course of the year. Many return again and again - just a few find it is not quite what they are looking for and only come once.

The years slip by and the children surprise us in their quick development. Mums come with a 'bump' and before you can say "Mrs Noah" the bumps become babies, the babies toddlers and then suddenly they are ready for Little Fishes or another similar group. All too soon they are gone but we hope their time with us will have helped them and their adult companions on their journey.

One young man who is travelling on is Joe. He has made himself famous with his 'blog' in the chronicle, and we are grateful to his mum Susie for encouraging him to write so graphically for us. We will miss you Joe. We will miss all the others 'going up' too, but we look forward to meeting old faces and new families as the new year unfolds.

We managed to get to the park once this summer term and once again met one or two adults with little ones whom we were able to invite to The Ark next term. They say that Thursdays are difficult to fill - we seem to be one of very few which meet on Thursday mornings.

We have been sad that our dear friend \*Les, known here as "Mr Sunshine" has been too poorly to

come to The Ark for the last half of the term. He has been our 'bouncer' on the door, keeping little ones safely in, and greeting families as they arrive. It is a sign of the times that we must keep the doors shut, or open with a lookout in order to keep ourselves safe. Les is missed for his presence on the door and his cheery welcome, "Hello Sunshine!" Thank you Les for all you do for us in many other ways too.

Beryl, with help from some mums and carers, prepares our refreshments, and keeps a watchful eye on the biscuit basket. The washing up machine means Beryl can get out of the kitchen to play nursery rhymes on the piano while the children sing and accompany her on various objects of percussion - Lovely !!

Margaret is there offering encouragement and support throughout the morning. She always has the time to listen to our grown ups, or give an appropriate cuddle to a little one - they just love her. She mops the floor and picks up the crayons, collects the empty mugs and does a host of other things which oil the wheels of the Ark, or should I say fills the sails (did Noah have sails on his Ark?!) Graham helps with toy and table shifting, out of the cupboard and back in again, he with Les gives an important male presence, encouraging fathers, grandfathers, uncles etc.

We are always glad when Andrew has time to pop in. His visits are appreciated by all.

Hilary does the register, and counts the money, tells the story and chooses nursery rhymes to sing.

Please continue to pray for this essential group, and if you have any idea that you might be able to help on the team please let me know. All ages welcome - single or couples together - all or part of the morning. If you feel called to help do not hesitate to say so. We are waiting for you to respond.

Please continue to pray for us - we know you do, and we know that without your prayers this part of our service to the Lord Jesus and the community around us would fail. Thank you.

Thursdays during term-time:  
9.15am - 11.15am *Hilary Redman*

*\* Post script : By the time this goes to print you will know that Les is no longer with us on the team. He is already sadly missed and we feel his absence. Thank you Les. for all your support.*

*[ Obituary on page 6 ]*

## The Not-So-Secret Ark Diary [my last one] of Joe Thomas

### Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May

Mummy was feeling artistic this morning – which almost never happens – and practically elbowed me out of the way whenever it looked like getting too involved in her sparkly tree picture. She needn't have worried, I was FAR more interested in the scissors and glue.

DISASTER – the trailer for “my” wooden ride-on was broken, I think by a younger boy who tried to grab it. I had a major screaming fit, but Graham promised to try to mend it .... I know it's not really my toy, but it's my very favourite and I'm usually to be found speeding along on it. Today I took a plastic turtle for a ride in the trailer – last week I had a mobile zoo !

Three more birthdays celebrated today – a 1 year old and two 3 year olds. Mummy was a bit worried that the money we take in subs (it's only 50p per week) might not be covering the costs of biscuits ....

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May was half-term.

### Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June

My big brother Charlie came along today too, as Elm Grove was closed for polling day ... whatever THAT is. Charlie didn't even ask why, he was just glad to be off ! Mummy went straight through to the kitchen to help Beryl - although by the time we got there, as usual Beryl had already done all the cup setting out, biscuit setting out and kettle filling ....

Charlie very kindly pushed me very, very fast in my little plastic car, but Mummy was a bit worried that we would squash someone en route ....

When asked how many biscuits she had eaten so far, Annabel opened a very full mouth, displayed trillions of crumbs and spluttered, very proudly, “eight !”

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June**

I decided to march around the hall by myself for "Grand Old Duke Of York" .... Usually Mummy has to carry me, lifting me "Up" and "Down" as appropriate and I know it hurts her arms as I am rather heavy ....

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June**

Mummy and I skived off today, as Granny was staying with us.

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June**

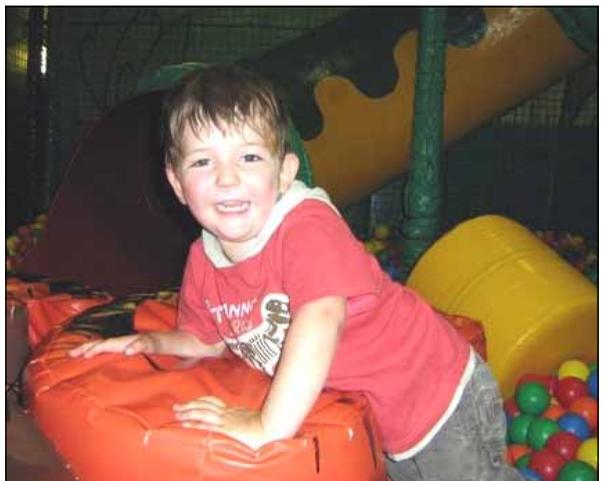
I was first to arrive ! I celebrated the unaccustomed space by racing around the hall several times. Hilary tried to catch up with me on one occasion, but she couldn't quite do it, as I am VERY fast. I am also a bit messy, as I spilt some milk ☺ Mummy helped out in the kitchen, as did Mary (Chloe's Mummy) towards the end of the morning, as Beryl was busy playing the piano. We all had great fun decorating little yoghurt pots and then putting cress seeds in them. It reminded Laura's Mummy of her university days when mischievous people would pour water and cress under people's bedroom doors when they were going away for a week ! I think Mummy was quite relieved that I am too wee to do anything like that - yet ☺

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July**

The Ark in the Park ! This almost NEVER happens, due to the British weather ☺

There were loads of us ... a very impressive turn-out. Oliver and Isaac's Mummy was rather pleased to bump into Laura and me before she climbed the hill from the station to the church, as we were able to point her in the right direction for the park instead ... I spent most of my time being Firefighter Joe, helping Firefighter Annabelle put out imaginary fires. (Annabelle slid down the pole all by herself, but Mummy insisted on helping me. I'm sure I COULD get down by myself - you just leap off, don't you ?)

And that's it from me ! Unless I'm expelled from Little Fishes, I won't be back at the Ark as I'll be in pre-school on Thursdays from now on. Thanks for reading ☺



# SUMMER TIME AT KESTRO

## [Worthing & District Stroke Club]

Meeting weekly as we do on the church premises, the summer session is a good time to go further afield, and this year so far we have had three outings. The first to Shoreham Airport followed a talk by John Rowntree, a guide at the airport.

We were able to admire the art deco terminal building, stand on the terrace to view small aircraft landing and taking off, and see from a distance the West Sussex police helicopter, also used at night by the Sussex and Surrey Flying Ambulance Service. The highlight of our outings is usually a cream tea and the restaurant looked after us well.



Marine Gardens

Our second outing (also including cream tea!) was a visit to Marine Gardens. This is always popular with our members

as there is plenty to do and see: a lively bowls match, a walk to the sea or to admire the gardens, and on the day we chose, plenty of

warm sunshine for just sitting and chatting. Our helpers like it there too because the level ground makes pushing wheelchairs easier.

But the highlight for us this year was a very adventurous excursion to Arundel Castle in July. A talk by John Penney in the spring had aroused our enthusiasm, especially as he had offered to make the visit possible for us. And so it was that 29 members and helpers, including 7 in wheelchairs set off in three minibuses. We had enlisted the help of the Dial-a-ride community bus driven by Jane Haskins of the Neighbourhood Care Alliance who had volunteered to give up an afternoon for us. Three young students from Worthing College also helped us – they were invaluable in pushing wheelchairs.

Golf type buggies transported as many as possible uphill through the parkland to the recently laid-out formal gardens. A showery afternoon found us exploring the castle and the afternoon concluded with tea in the restaurant.

We were very grateful to Vic Joy, our chairman, who had organised the afternoon and to Carole Cullis who sorted the travel requirements. Most of all we were grateful to Sussex Community Foundation who funded the outing with a grant from Grassroots Community Development Foundation.



# Fellowship Meetings

- by Doreen Norris

As you know, we break up for the summer so I'll have nothing to report for a while.

Our last session was brought to a close by the A.G.M. which was on 26<sup>th</sup> May. I am not able to give a personal account as I was away that week enjoying the wonderful spiritual healing at Crowhurst.

However, the A.G.M. produced a new president. Our dear friend Carole Culliss has taken on the task, having served on the committee for some time. Welcome Carole, I know you will be an excellent president. While welcoming Carole we must

give our heartfelt thanks to Bobby Hitchin and Peggy Mott for the years they have shared the Presidency. What would we have done without them!

On the 9<sup>th</sup> June Bobby Hitchin laid on her annual garden party. Thank you Bobby for your hard work on the occasion. Thanks also go to the ladies who help with catering etc. Unfortunately the weather was not as good as it usually is – but you can't win 'em all, at least the rain held off and a good time was had by everyone!

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## Autumn 2009

20th October	Anniversary	Mrs Polly McLelland
3rd November	Miscellany of slides & music	John Lynch
17th November	Sussex Handy Van	Mr Nigel Compton
1st December	The Spurtles	
15th December	Carols & readings	

## Church Fellowship– How Can You Help?

The Tuesday Fellowship Autumn session began on September 8<sup>th</sup>

We are all now a year older than this time last year! - and consequently our numbers have fallen again. This will have been for various reasons - ill-health, lack of mobility, no longer having transport etc. It is becoming increasingly difficult to invite speakers along to a small group- this is often the case in the winter months.

### Can you ?

- Pray for the group & its future within the Church
- Consider coming along to the meetings
- Bring a friend or neighbour along - maybe someone who doesn't often get out
- Think about offering transport to someone who can no longer get to the meetings

Carole Culliss is our new President – it would be good for her to have the support of the Church Fellowship

We are a friendly welcoming bunch – give it a try!

*Carol Webber (secretary)*

# H1N1

We had a very peaceful holiday on a farm during August. Ruth and I sometimes, with Jonathan or Anna would feed three growing Gloucester Old Spot pigs with our peelings and scraps and visit four young Kune Kune (Coony Coony) pigs. This miniature breed of pigs from New Zealand like being tickled behind their ears, they almost purr with delight! One of the young lady's knees would buckle and she would lay there waiting for her tummy to be tickled as well! Whenever any of the pigs saw us, they would trot towards us, well the Gloucester Old Spots would gallop when they saw the bucket! On entering the Kune Kune's pen they would come and sniff our shoes and legs, leaving behind whatever their snouts had previously been in! The technical term for this is "being pigged".

When I opened the post that had collected over the two weeks we were away I found a document from the URC about the H1N1 flu pandemic, and one of the suggestions to try to limit the spread of this virus is that we have no physical contact with each other when greeting one another, or to "pig" each other!

Not that I'm suggesting that we rub our snouts over each other!

Most of the recommendations are common sense and regular hand washing is the order of the day.

If you suffer any cold or flu symptoms, however mild, please do not attend worship or any other gathering. If you are stewarding or Duty Elder, find a replacement. Let your Elder know if you are unwell, especially if you need help with shopping or the collection of medication and help will be found.

To help with this we must have your up to date contact details on the church database, if your phone number or email address has changed since the publication of the purple coloured church handbook, let Graham or your Elder know. When it comes to greeting people please don't be offended if no-one offers to shake your hand on entering or leaving worship, and if you have decided to keep your hands to yourself, don't be embarrassed, you won't be the only one. You may well find that we have put hand gel around, please use it as you would when entering or leaving hospital. This can all help minimise the spread of the virus.

It is said that most people under the age of 45 (that's most of us, isn't it? Oh no, I'm thinking of the young at heart!) will be most susceptible to the virus, those over 45 are most likely to have an immune memory from previous flu epidemics, so hopefully we as a worshipping community shouldn't be too badly affected and we should use this advantage to help wherever possible within our local community.

Having written all this the important thing is not to get sucked into the media frenzy that has arisen around Swine Flu. At the time of writing the spread of the virus has slowed down in the UK, but this trend may well reverse with the onset of winter. But, hey, we have to live, and will be handling money and goods in the shops, travelling on buses and opening and closing doors etc. so use the hand gel whenever it is available and as Bruce Forsythe would say "keeeeeep dancing", no, no keeeeeep hand washing. *Valerie Cooper*

In June four of us went to Christ Church, Chichester to a Messy Fiesta, a training day led by Lucy Moore, the founder of Messy Church. If you weren't at Church Meeting in July you won't have heard about Messy Church, so here is a little information.

Messy Church is part of the "fresh expressions" movement, it is church, but not in the traditional sense. It is a time for the local church to meet with the local community, a time for children and parents/carers to engage with God together, when they might never do so. It is not for us to expect to see more children or families in Church on a Sunday.

Each session of Messy Church has a theme with craft activities, a short lively time of worship followed by a basic nourishing hot meal. Our first Messy Church will take place on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December. The doors will open at 3:30pm, after school, with registration, refreshments and board games and puzzles, a time to relax after a school day.



At 4 o'clock the crafts begin and of course in December Christmas makes a pretty good theme, we could have up to twelve different craft activities, worship follows at 5 and tea at 5:15. This all means that we will need a team of people to make this work. Many different jobs will need to be covered, people to meet and greet the congregation when they arrive, people to provide refreshments and to prepare and cook the meal, something very basic, a team to lead worship and yet more to clear, clean and lay the tables for tea.

A number of people have already volunteered to join the Messy Church team, but more are needed. Speak to myself, Susanna, Val, Bett or Sue if you want more information and are interested. The sooner the better as CRB checks will need to be carried out. This is an exciting time for GURC, come and be part of it! *Valerie Cooper*

# Lay Preachers Mid Week Course

Westminster College, Cambridge

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> -Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September

On Monday afternoon Hilary Redman and I arrived at the College to enjoy a few days of intense learning. The programme included Biblical Studies of the Old and New Testament, Contemporary Theology Sessions and Prayer, linking with the next Vision 4 Life theme.



After a cup of tea on arrival, a warm welcome and an enjoyable dinner we looked at Prayer in the Old Testament with Rev. John Proctor, who we remembered from our weekend away at Pilgrim Hall. He is an excellent speaker and teacher and talked about the Parables of Jesus. Are they Stories, Images, true to life? He made us think of the obvious meaning of a parable and what lay behind it. How does it finish and does it finish at the end or is there more to it than Jesus is telling us?

The next morning after breakfast and Morning Prayer in the beautiful Chapel we looked at Prayer in the Old Testament. Our Speaker was Rev Dr Susan Durber and her topic was entitled 'Thinking about Prayer'.

She started by making us think about what other people had said about prayer and consider how their thoughts and words spoke to us. An example of this from Gerard Hughes: 'Our Prayer does not have to be articulate, well phrased or eloquent, but it must be sincere, honest and without pretence.'

We had opportunities to ask questions about prayer and it was interesting that Christians had many questions in common.

Our Session with The Revd Dr Janet Tollington was entitled Interceding, in the Old Testament. We discovered that there is little evidence of gatherings for public worship and when the Sabbath was observed the emphasis was mainly

on what should not be done and on rest from work. There is nothing to tell us how the day should be used. She explained the roles of Prophets and Priests and we looked at the ways Rituals and Lots were used to seek God's will. Questions asked of God in this way could only result in yes or no answers. Was this the first example of Multiple Choice?

Free time on Tuesday afternoon was a time for people to relax, take a walk into Cambridge, use the library or visit bookshops.

Sessions resumed again at 5 o'clock with Susan Durber, looking at Prayers and their construction. We were encouraged to write a collect and construct our prayers sensitively and honestly.

The last session of the day was led by The Rev John Bradbury entitled 'Conversations with God' – Calvin and Prayer, Illustrated with overhead projection and individual sheets passed around, this session, which could have been quite hard to follow, proved an interesting journey into Calvin's transformation of the Church and a little bit of Church History.

Our final day began with Breakfast and Morning Prayer which was followed by The Rev Neil Thorogood speaking about the Art of Prayer.

We looked at various pictures and discussed how the artist was relating art to prayer. In some paintings there were obvious visual representations of Bible stories and aspects of Christianity, in other

pictures it was more difficult to see exactly what the artist was trying to show. We looked at Icons and pictures and how they try to help us to discover different ways of knowing Christ. Our final talk in the afternoon entitled 'Praises and Petitions' in the Old Testament looked at various passages where Praise, Confession, Adoration and supplication were all used in approaching God in prayer. As you would suspect the most obvious Praises and Petitions were found in the Psalms.

The programme ended on Wednesday afternoon with a Communion Service after a very enjoyable and informative course.

*Rosina Bayley*

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**From Zechariah.** — When Hilary and Wilfred met Andrew for "Lay Preaching Training" they had to write, in the first person, a few words as if a character from the Bible was writing. Wilfred wrote :-

“

I wish Haggai would get on with it. I guess he's too old, and he's losing it. He was brilliant when he started – when we started – we worked together, starting at about the same time with our prophesying.

Oh, I'm Zechariah, and I'm a prophet and a priest. Haggai and I are trying to get the people to get on with rebuilding the city of Jerusalem, and the Temple, all destroyed at the beginning of the Exile. Haggai is about 70, and that's old, and after 3 months of talking and preaching and prophesying he seems to have given up.

But it's so important to keep going, to keep encouraging everyone to keep building. I know the Samaritans and those other monkeys up in the North

are trying to stop us – they're jealous – but we must keep going.

Cyrus the King let us come back after that long, long time in Babylon; and King Zerubbabel and Joshua the High Priest led tens of thousands of us back. Lots of prophets got the rebuilding going, but it's tailed off now, and Haggai seems to have disappeared. And I'm so busy. Darius is king now, and he's very encouraging, but what with my Priestly duties and having to prepare sermons and prophesies – I don't know how I cope.

I'm having bad nights, that's for sure. I don't sleep very well and every night I have long complicated dreams. I suppose I have to be thankful that that helps me with my prophesying!

I keep on seeing messengers from Yahweh – angels – and they talk to me. I had one really dreadful night last February, when I had eight visions, dreams, whatever they were, in one night! I felt awful the next day. I may be young, but I need my sleep!

In one dream there was a man on a red horse, and then there was a young man like me with a tape measure in his hand, then there was a man like a burning stick. In one vision I saw Joshua the High Priest, but he looked dreadful all dirty and dressed like a tramp – and so it went on, all night long.

Then I realized that Yahweh was telling me what to say to our people. It must have been so difficult for those earlier prophets in the years before the Exile, when no one listened, and Yahweh was ignored. The people went their own way – and what happened? Exile, that's what! Haggai is so old he probably saw it all happen 70 years ago! What a time that must have been! But in recent years life in Babylon hasn't been so bad, and now we have the opportunity and the help of Darius to get Jerusalem and the Temple rebuilt.

But back to that awful night in February when I had all those visions and dreams – Yahweh spoke to me,

he really did, in a way that I've never experienced before. He said to me "I've come back to Zion, to Jerusalem. I really care about my people. Old age pensioners will again sit around on benches in the city and chat; and boys and girls will again play in the streets. This will be great for you, and it will be great for me!"

So I told all the people this, and it cheered them all up, and cleared their minds to make them full of beans to get busy again for the Lord. I went all over the city spreading those words from Yahweh to get it all to come to life again. And I said "Shout and cheer Daughter Zion. Raise the roof Daughter Jerusalem. Your King is coming, a king that will make everything right, a humble king riding on a donkey". Only we amongst all the nations of the world have our God as our King.

And it all worked! The Temple and the city were rebuilt within four years of my starting all this prophesying. There's so much more to do, so much more for me to say. I just know that our Sovereign Lord, our King will come one day in person. Our Messiah will come – I know it!!

Zechariah. ””

## Oberammergau

The Rev John Jennings, who preaches here on occasion, has four spare tickets for Oberammergau for a couple or friends who would like to share. For details e-mail or phone please to John –

E mail: john.jennings20@ntlworld.com

Telephone: 01903 237395

## Cornwall Room

### - those involved with the building programme

- L C Nicholas; Building Contractor - Climping
- Crosthwaite & Son; Electrical Contractor - Bognor Regis
- Bourke & Cooper Ltd; Plumbing & Heating Engineers - Worthing
- Worthing Glass; UPVC Double Glazing & Doors - Worthing
- Tri-Star; Fire Protection - Pulborough
- Trevor E Unsted; Architectural Technologist - Rustington
- A number of volunteers from this Church who helped with the cleaning, painting and decorating.

We give thanks to God for His guidance and for making this project possible. We also thank those above with the technical knowledge and expertise who have had a large part to play with these alterations. There were others who were sub-contracted in to carry out roof work, and the ceiling and flooring contractors. Worthing Borough Council Building Control.

The work has been completed within budget as agreed at Church Meeting.

*Graham Redman. Property Management Group*

## Articles for The CHRONICLE

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

1. E-Mail to [chronicle@gurc.org.uk](mailto:chronicle@gurc.org.uk)
2. Via the website - [www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle](http://www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle)
3. By post to Graham Redman  
5 Salvington Hill, Worthing, West Sussex. BN13 3AT
4. — or in the red box located at the back of the Church.

**Closing date for Winter Chronicle 1 November 2009**

**The Chronicle is on line at [www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle](http://www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle)**

### Weekday Activities

Goring by Sea Pilots Company. 5-17yr olds	Monday Afternoon/Evening
Tuesday Fellowship	Alternate Tuesday Afternoons
The Ark for Adults with Babies & Toddlers	Thursday Mornings. School Term times
Monthly Mid-week Holy Communion	1st Thursday in month 10.30am
Kestro (Stroke Club)	Friday Afternoons
Choir Practice	Friday Evenings
Little Fishes Play Group	Monday-Friday. School Term times
Bible Study Groups	Various times & days
Table Tennis	Tuesday & Friday Mornings
Games	Alternate Monday Afternoons

### Publication Team :-

Collating and stapling: Ken Woods  
 Proof Reading: Beryl Richardson

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Mailing Secretary & Treasurer: Mrs Grace Ralph. Telephone 01903 690714  
 Please send any contributions towards the Chronicle and mailing cost to her at -  
 10 Cuckfield Crescent, Worthing, BN13 2ED

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Editor: Graham Redman.  
 Telephone 01903 260568

5 Salvington Hill, Worthing. BN13 3AT  
 chronicle@gurc.org.uk

*The Chronicle costs approximately 75p 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 Grace Ralph ( address above ). Thank you.*

**The CHRONICLE**  
[www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle](http://www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle)

[chronicle@gurc.org.uk](mailto: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 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](http://www.gurc.org.uk)

# The CHRONICLE

Winter 2009/10



## Love Came Down at Christmas

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*The magazine of Goring United Reformed Church, Worthing, West Sussex*

## 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



# The CHRONICLE

Vol. 66 - No. 621 Winter 2009/10

## Front cover :

Photograph of the front of the church building taken after a short fall of snow early on a February morning last winter.

Snow never lays for long in Worthing - it's usually gone by lunchtime !

## Articles for The CHRONICLE

Closing date for the next CHRONICLE magazine is the 1 February

Please see important note on page i8.

[www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle](http://www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle)



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## Love Came Down at Christmas

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*"At this festive season of the year Mr Scrooge," said the gentleman, taking up a pen, "it is more than usually desirable that we should make some slight provision for the poor and destitute, who suffer greatly at the present time. ... We choose this time, because it is a time, of all others rejoices."*

– Charles Dickens (A Christmas Carol)

Yes its that time of year when peoples' thoughts are turned to a countryside covered in a white blanket of fresh crisp snow - all very well but bad for driving in, then it melts and goes slushy. Or we may seek the thrill of wandering through the lavishly decorated shopping centres

– no, all too expensive and crowded. Perhaps we delight in sitting down and writing out our Cards – I'm not sending Cynthia and Ted one they didn't send us one last year. Then there is the joy of family get togethers – Oh no, Uncle John and his embarrassingly bad taste jokes. There are also those who think of Christmas as the Lord who dwells above who sent His son to die for us and gave the gift of love.



Christmas is a season of contrasts: the generous and the mean, the spiritual and the worldly, the gain or the giving. It is a time when those who have, have even more and those who are in need still remain in need. But we do see that glimmer of hope breaking through; people's consciences are stirred. As Dickens wrote 'it is a time, of all others, when want is keenly felt and abundance rejoices'. So lets for a moment break out of our own warm joyous experience of Christmas and see it from the view of those on the outside of our society. Remember Jesus was not born into a life of riches and comfort but in a stable to a young "betrothed" mother. He lived his life largely rejected by his own people: no home, relying on

the generosity of others. For Jesus had a particular mission to see through to the inevitable end. Don't get me wrong I don't think we all have to live a life of poverty, but recognise the gifts we have been allowed to have in this world. We are blessed to be able to react to the needs of the hungry, the homeless and the lonely, those struggling to cope with the world. We have the means and resources at this season to reach out in the name of Jesus and spread his love and compassion. If you like, we have the perfect excuse at Christmas not to be patronising but to be relevant and genuine. To give and not receive, but ironically it is in the very act of giving that we do receive.



"Love came down at Christmas;  
Love all lovely, love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas,  
Stars and angels gave the sign."  
- Christina Rossetti

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*Have a blessed Christmas.*  
*Andrew Sellwood*



## The United Reformed Church Southern Synod

Synod Office • East Croydon URC • Addiscombe Grove • Croydon CR0 5LP

Telephone 020 8688 3730 Fax No 020 8688 2698

1<sup>st</sup> November 2009

To all churches in Southern Synod

Dear Friends

It's been quite a year. President Barack Obama's inauguration launched it with such hope, but then amongst other things there has been an awful death toll in Afghanistan, serious recession-induced strain on many households, the death-dealing earthquake at L'Aquila in Italy and for the Synod, the distraction of a radical review of structures, not forgetting the more personal challenges many of us have stoically faced behind our front doors. It has not ended as it began.

Under the circumstances it would be easy for us to look to the Christmas message for some unshakeable stability. And in a way that is what we're offered by the news of 'God with us', with its love that nothing can snatch away from us. But actually the child of Bethlehem heralds not so much a reliable status quo as a constantly transforming, renewing upheaval. The Spirit-influenced Christian life is all about constant evolution, gradual development and sometimes radical change, in pursuit of God's commonwealth of justice and joy. That the world and the church are in transition is not therefore a sign of God's absence, so much as of God's active presence; that difference-making with-us-ness.

Of course, if being caught up with Christ is inevitably about change, we do need something by which to check that the conversion is taking us in the right direction. Some of those much-loved Christmas narratives perhaps offer a few benchmarks by which to keep an eye that the changes are good ones: for example, the shepherds advocate a bias to the poor; the magi urge us to address the spiritual hunger in people of every race and culture; the angels model how we should be forever immersed in worship - 'lost in wonder, love and praise.'

We follow Christ ultimately not to tread water, nor to be cosseted, but to know an inextinguishable light as we traverse life's different and unknown pathways. That, rather than the longing for soporific changelessness, is what gives us hope for 2010. So be it, as we strive for peace in our time, as we emerge from recession - lessons learned and priorities changed, as we implement new mission-enabling structures for the synod, and as we embrace all that the New Year offers us personally.

Bethan and Jess join me in wishing you all an inspiring Christmas and a New Year that does not end where it began.

Yours sincerely



# Fellowship Meetings

This is a sad item for me to write as I have reluctantly decided it is time to relinquish my job as Tuesday Fellowship reporter. It has been most enjoyable: writing up the pieces, especially as we have over the years been very fortunate in the speakers, photographers and entertainers etc, who have visited us and given us all so much pleasure. Recently though because of my health, I have missed more meetings than I have attended which rather defeats the object !

However, I am very happy to tell you that our friend and President, Carole Culliss has offered to take over from me in writing the reports and I am so very grateful to her. I know that I leave it in capable hands.

Thank you Carole. Bless you. *Doreen Norris*

Our first meeting in September followed a weekend remembering the start of the Second World War, with Vera Lynn coming second in the top of the charts. It seemed fitting therefore that following our speaker Wilfred Rhodes' address on new beginnings, which we all enjoyed, we had a discussion on what some of our members did in the War. Some of them were married during the War and told us what they wore on their special day. It was very interesting.

Our following meeting called Red Assure Independent Living was, as the title says a talk on the many gadgets available as aids in the home, anything that keeps people from having to go into a home is a benefit, very informative.

At the beginning of October we had a

talk by Gerry Jackson on St Dunstons. Gerry, an ex soldier is registered blind and a representative of the home. He is known as a St Dunstaner. His knowledge and enthusiasm for his subject made the talk extremely interesting and it was with regret we could not allow him to talk for longer. On 20th October it was our anniversary service. We were due to have Mrs Polly McLelland as our speaker but unfortunately, due to illness she was unable to come. We were lucky to get Rev. Tony Trevithic as a replacement. He delighted us with reminiscences of his days in Wales running a youth club. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon. We had a few visitors and the Cornwall Room was packed. The meeting was followed by tea in the Main Hall.

*Carole Culliss*

**New Year Meetings:** Our first two meetings are on Tuesday 5th and 19th January, then on every first and third Tuesday through the year.

# KESTRO

KESTRO recently had an afternoon reading poetry and writing limericks and they would like to share some of these with you.

- There was a great driver called Vic  
Who wasn't the slightest bit thick.  
He drove round the town  
Without ere a frown  
And arrived at the church real quick.
- There once was a flier called Mike,  
Who never got used to a bike.  
He came on the bus  
Without any fuss  
'Cos it was twice as nice as a hike.
- Our leader, whose name is Eileen,  
To help is exceedingly keen;  
She takes us to castles  
And wraps us up parcels;  
Next year we may visit the Queen!
- A handsome young man who's named Joe\*  
Fell over and damaged his toe.  
He got out his book  
And took a good look  
And to Med School off he did go.

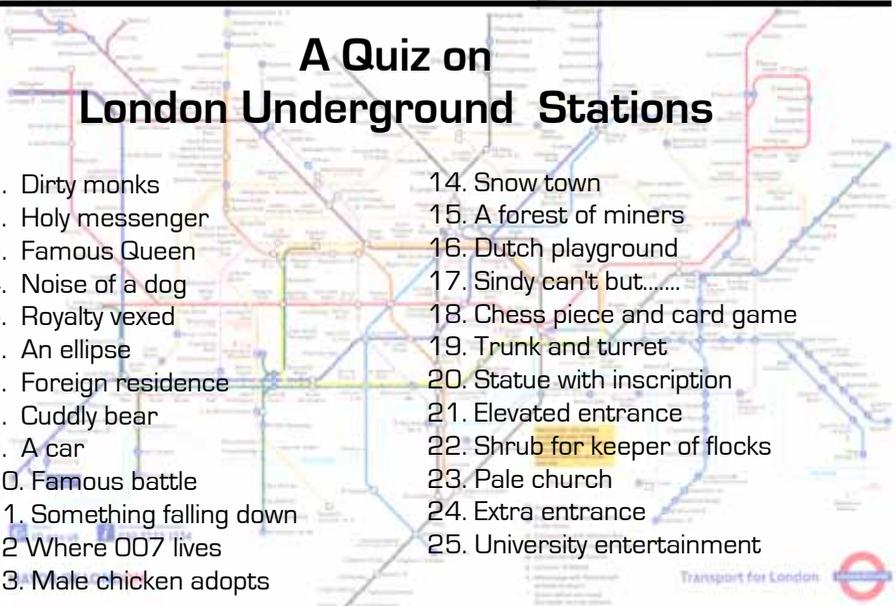
*\*Joe is a student from Worthing College whose help is invaluable each week. He is hoping to become a doctor.*

- There once was a woman called Kay  
Needed something to do with her day;  
So they sent her to KESTRO  
Where all of the best go,  
And that's where she's happy to stay.
- A very nice gal called Denise  
Was always trying to please;  
She sang on the bus  
And made such a fuss  
She put everyone at their ease.

# Services at Christmas-time

Saturday 19th December	Carol Singing at the Mulberry Shops on the Green opposite the Library from 11.00am – 12.00noon. <i>Christians Together in Goring. Free Mince Pies</i>
Sunday 20th	Tea in the Main Hall for all. 4.30pm <i>[ Please bring a plate of food ready to eat - ie no cutting or slicing ]</i> - followed by 'Carols by Candlelight' at 6.00pm
Thursday 24th	Family Nativity at 5.30pm - and Holy Communion at 11.30pm
Christmas Day	Family Worship at 10.30am
Sunday 27th December	Morning Worship at 10.30am No Evening Service

## A Quiz on London Underground Stations

- 
1. Dirty monks
  2. Holy messenger
  3. Famous Queen
  4. Noise of a dog
  5. Royalty vexed
  6. An ellipse
  7. Foreign residence
  8. Cuddly bear
  9. A car
  10. Famous battle
  11. Something falling down
  12. Where 007 lives
  13. Male chicken adopts
  14. Snow town
  15. A forest of miners
  16. Dutch playground
  17. Sindy can't but.....
  18. Chess piece and card game
  19. Trunk and turret
  20. Statue with inscription
  21. Elevated entrance
  22. Shrub for keeper of flocks
  23. Pale church
  24. Extra entrance
  25. University entertainment

Answers, if you need them, are on line at [www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle](http://www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle) and will be on the table at the back of the church after Christmas.



## European Conference

## Womens' World day of Prayer

**I**n September I was very involved with our European Conference and I wanted to share my experiences with Chronicle readers who may not have heard my dialogue with Andrew in Church. It was such a fantastic six days that I can't keep quiet about it!

The 88 delegates came from 37 European countries and with our own committee we totalled 100 plus. A Russian and 2 Moldovans were refused visas. We met at a Christian conference centre in Hertfordshire and we chose the theme 'Strength for Today and New Hope for Tomorrow – Generations Learning Together'. Two thirds of those who came were younger rather than older and we also invited five younger English ladies – unfortunately WWDP is an ageing movement in this country but this is not so in Europe and the rest of the world.

Language was not a problem – everyone was keen to try their English, but we also employed French, German and Russian translators (2 of each – it's very intensive!) for instantaneous translation. In one session we were asked to say 'Praise the Lord' in our own language and 30 different languages were spoken. When we said the Lord's Prayer in our own language it was the most beautiful sound with everyone saying 'Amen' together. We all loved and worshipped the same God, whatever our language, culture or denomination and there was a wonderful, happy atmosphere.

There were Bible Studies, interactive sessions with a Facilitator, worship and prayer and a presentation by CHASTE (Churches Together Against Sex Trafficking in England). There was a Prayer Evening when someone wrote a prayer on a card, which was then

attached to her country on a huge map of Europe by a ribbon. On another day we had a Cultural Evening when different countries presented pictures or a song or dance or something in which we could all join – it was great fun! On the last evening at the Closing Ceremony we all exchanged key rings with each other as a symbol of opening doors to the future.

Being on the committee involved much planning over many months and I had special responsibilities. The first was to co-ordinate all the arrivals and departures from and to all the different airports around London - all five (and all 5 terminals at Heathrow!) plus Eurostar, and other local railway stations. Some were arriving on different days and the lady from the Czech Republic at the last minute had to come 14 hours on a coach from Prague because her airline went into liquidation in the week before the conference. It was quite a task to get them all to the conference and I spent weeks beforehand on the computer emailing all round Europe, and most of the time during the conference sorting out departures. Wilf said it was a nightmare and when could he get to the computer! However when local WWDP ladies (plus Wilf) greeted delegates at the airports, fed and transported some of them and when I was able to greet them on arrival at the conference they were happy and content.

I also helped organise a Prayer Walk around the grounds as one of the workshops, an outing by coach to London for all 100 of us (including a guided tour and a flight on the London Eye) and an evening of country dancing with a caller and a display team which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. All these responsibilities were new experiences for me – not nightmares but challenges underpinned by much prayer.

I offer my thanks to all those who support WWDP and prayed for the conference and to those who supported the Coffee Morning last March. Please note in your new diaries the date for the 2010 service on March 5<sup>th</sup> which comes from Cameroon.

There are photos of the conference on the web site:

[www.wwdp-natcomm.org](http://www.wwdp-natcomm.org)

*Eileen Rhodes*

**From Ruth** — When Wilfred and Hilary met Andrew for "Lay Preaching Training" they had to write, in the first person, a few words as if a character from the Bible was writing. In the Autumn Chronicle Wilfred wrote about Zechariah. Now Hilary writes about Ruth

“

Here I am, Ruth - and I have a remarkable story to tell you. I am a descendant of Lot, Abraham's nephew and I was brought up and lived in Moab, that's just to the north-east of the dead sea. We were all really suffering greatly because of the famine which was sweeping Israel, and the whole area was going down hill as is the case when people are hungry and their livelihoods are threatened. No-one seemed to have any self respect. War easily broke out and we were living in a time of decline. Moral standards were falling - I had little hope and nothing to offer. It was very depressing and I was very afraid of the future.

Then one day everything changed. It was really super, when I met Elimelech and his wife Naomi who had come to live in Moab. They had come from Bethlehem, and with them came their two sons, Mahlon and Chilion. After they had lived near us a while, sadly Elimelech died so leaving Naomi a widow and her sons without their father. It was then that I was taken in to the family by marriage and Orpah was as well.

We had been content for about ten years but then our husbands, both Mahlon and Chilion, died. So now we were three widows, Naomi Orpah and myself feeling rather alone and vulnerable. Poor dear Naomi. It was bad for her when Elimelech died but to have lost both her sons too - it was a very sad and difficult time for us all to get through.

Then one day Naomi heard news that there was bread to be had back in Bethlehem and as she still had kinsmen there she decided that the time had come for her to leave Moab and return home.

This idea of hers unsettled me. I did not like the thought of Naomi undertaking the journey to Bethlehem by herself - was too awful, so Orpah and I decided to go with her.

Now Naomi's ways were not like our ways, for she worshipped one God, the God of Israel, and we had lots of gods to worship, but we loved Naomi very much and were very concerned for her well-being.

I had learned so much from Naomi and loved her dearly. I was inspired by the great faith she had in her God,

and she was such an example to me that I couldn't bear to think of her leaving. Her love for me had been so great and we had become very close. I had even begun to share in her love of her "one true God" and as a result felt very blessed.

So all three of us set out for Bethlehem. But while we were on our way Naomi said she thought we would be better to go home to our own mothers in Moab. She was troubled that she was taking us away from what we knew. We found ourselves in tears. We talked it over between us and after only a little hesitation Orpah decided she would return to her family in Moab. But I had to fight hard against my tears, I had become so fond of Naomi that the thought of going home without her was more than I could bear. Who would care for her? She was no longer a young woman. We had become bound together in our love of God. So I begged Naomi to take me with her, so that I could continue to support her and learn more about her wonderful faith. In fact I made her a promise: I said that I would go wherever she went, that I would adopt her people as my own. Her God would be my God and I would be buried among her people. And so she agreed.

When we arrived in Bethlehem it seemed as though all the city had come out to meet us. I realised just how much Naomi was loved here too, and everyone seemed to be looking forward to her return. Everyone was

busy because we had come just at the time of the barley harvest. Naomi was right, there was bread to eat here.

The first thing to do was to try and find grain to make our own bread, so I asked Naomi if I could gather the scattered grain from the edge of a near-by barley field. And she said I could. I learned that the part of the field that I was working in belonged to a wealthy man called Boaz. I saw him later talking to his reapers, and then I was quite surprised because he came over and took me aside to tell me that I had no need to go to anyone else's field, but should stay with his women where I would be safe. I could not understand his generosity but he said that he knew all about me and how I had remained loyal to Naomi, caring for her enough even to leave my own people.

He asked the Lord God of Israel to bless me, and I felt honoured, but still did not fully understand his kindness.

Later he invited me to a meal and I shared bread and vinegar with him and his reapers, and when I went out gathering again they seemed to leave extra grain near the stooks which I could pick up very easily.

It wasn't until I got back to Naomi that she told me that Boaz was a relative of Elimelech. She was clearly pleased that he had taken care of me, and she too said I should stay close to the men and women in Boaz's field.

One evening Naomi told me I should wash, anoint myself and dress in my best clothes, then wait quietly until Boaz had finished his meal and laid down to sleep. She told me that when he was asleep I should uncover his feet and lie close to him, then wait again and he would tell me what I should do. I did exactly as Naomi told me. In the middle of the night he was startled and woke up. He discovered me. He asked my name and I told him, Ruth. Then just as Naomi had said I should I asked him to take me under his wing, to care for me because of his close kinship with me. I was surprised because he told me that there was one even closer to me than himself. He told me to wait until the morning, then he would discover if this other kinsman would do his duty by me, that is care for me, or not. So when morning came we parted - secretly - but before I left he filled my shawl with barley to take home.

Then Naomi and I waited. Later news came that Boaz had met with his close kinsman and also with the city elders in the customary way, and they had agreed that Boaz should buy Elimelech's field, so allowing Boaz to take me for his wife. All this was arranged with the elders and the exchanging of the sandal, as was the custom, and the people who had gathered at the gate were his witnesses. The elders blessed Boaz and prayed for his prosperity and the prosperity of any offspring he might have.

It was amazing for they likened me to Rachel or Leah and prayed that our house might be famous in Bethlehem. What a thought!

We were married and soon blessed with the birth of a son. All the women came to visit and to bless Naomi and me, and to give our baby a name. He was to be called Obed.

How immensely overwhelmed I was by the prayers and praise of Naomi's people. I, who had been a stranger, was accepted and loved. It seemed as though God Himself had taken care of me. How glad I was to be with His people. How much I had come to lean on Him and trust Him for myself.

My future was assured. Naomi and I would be together, and I would be able to care for her in her old age. Boaz was my husband, we had Obed, and Naomi nursed him and he was our delight.

We looked at him and wondered what his life would be, but mostly I marvelled at the way I had been accepted and loved.

Thank you, Naomi for all you have done for me.

”

Thank You, Lord God of Israel.

## Christmas Message from Ghana:

To all the people at GURC,

JOY at Christmas  
and PEACE, GOOD HEALTH and HAPPINESS  
throughout the coming year!

With many thanks for all you have done for us,

Rev. Samuel and Mercy Nkrumah,  
Agnes Amissah and family,  
The Hope Presbyterian Church of Assin Nsuta

### From our friends and partner churches in Ghana

(in continuation of the report given in last year's Winter Chronicle)

To the good news first! In the summer, a photograph of all the Amissah family arrived – mother Agnes with her seven children! [See right]

They are the family whose father [teacher and church secretary of the Hope Presbyterian Church] died unexpectedly in 2006 and who we in GURC have tried to financially support so that the education fees for the seven could be paid. This was the first photograph of the family since a very sad picture taken at the funeral of their father. It is necessary to explain that “ordinary” people who live in a village or very small town in Ghana do not have a camera of their own, and therefore they have to arrange for a photographer to take a picture of them and this costs a lot of money, which they would rather spend on more important things like food or a pair of shoes. I had actually had to ask several times for a picture of the family because I wanted us all to see how the children had been developing, and I was delighted when the picture finally arrived. I think we all would agree that mother Agnes has done very well in looking after her seven! Don't they look healthy and strong in their “Sunday best”?! I have no doubt that they are wearing their best clothes, because the two young men in black and white shirts wore these shirts already in the funeral picture of their father...

The two young men wearing ties are Mewton (a primary school teacher) and Bright (the accountant, who had to do his army service immediately after he finished studying - until the end of November 2009) The young man at the right is Frederick who has also become a primary school teacher. This means that Agnes now only has to



worry about four children getting an education or a training! Edward on the left is also training to become a teacher, to the right of the mother is Richard. He stayed at home after his father's death to help the mother (while the other big sons moved away to where their college/polytechnic was). Michael, the little boy in the front, is now 10 years old and Bernice, a very bright girl, is now 12. This means that mother Agnes will have to continue paying school fees for some time!

It is Edward, on the left, who has been writing for the family (since the mother most probably cannot speak English, nor is able to write) and in every message there are heartfelt thanks expressed for the help given by the people in Goring.

For the Rev. Samuel and his wife the year 2009 has been difficult. It has been the year of his retirement and therefore a year of many worries. The home that he had started to build for after his retirement was badly damaged in floods in 2008. It turned out that the area was prone to flooding. So he had to sell this piece of land and buy a more expensive piece of land in a safer area. Now he has very little money left for the building of his new home.

The plans of the Hope Church to re-build and improve the structure of their church have also come to a halt due to lack of money. However, like every year, they invite us to their annual Harvest Festival – this year it takes place on the 6th of December!

And like every year, they wish us all a happy Christmas! *Monika Leal*

## Please don't leave it too late !!

Whilst there is always a closing date for the Chronicle magazines please submit articles, if you possibly can, in advance of that date.

For the last two issues, I have had to delay editing for a month as there have been so very few articles to hand. Delays tend to put pressure on those who work on the magazine especially at busy times of the year. We were in real danger this time of not having a 'Christmas' edition.

Please remember to submit your articles in good time, during January :  
- the 1 February is the last day.

*Graham Redman. Editor*

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## Articles for The CHRONICLE - Spring edition

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

1. E-Mail to [chronicle@gurc.org.uk](mailto:chronicle@gurc.org.uk)
2. Via the website - [www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle](http://www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle)
3. By post to Graham Redman  
5 Salvington Hill, Worthing, West Sussex. BN13 3AT
4. — or in the red box located at the back of the Church.

<p>The last day for the Spring Chronicle is 1 February 2010</p>
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The Chronicle is on line at [www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle](http://www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle)

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### Weekday Activities

Goring by Sea Pilots Company. 5-17yr olds	Monday Afternoon/Evening
Tuesday Fellowship	Alternate Tuesday Afternoons
The Ark for Adults with Babies & Toddlers	Thursday Mornings. School Term times
Monthly Mid-week Holy Communion	1st Thursday in month 10.30am
Kestro (Stroke Club)	Friday Afternoons
Choir Practice	Friday Evenings
Little Fishes Play Group	Monday-Friday. School Term times
Bible Study Groups	Various times & days
Table Tennis	Tuesday & Friday Mornings
Games	Alternate Monday Afternoons

### Publication Team :-

Collating and stapling: Ken Woods  
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Telephone 01903 260568

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*The Chronicle costs approximately 75p 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 Grace Ralph ( address above ). Thank you.*

**The CHRONICLE**  
www.gurc.org.uk/chronicle

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 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](http://www.gurc.org.uk)