

Unity News

Hastings and St Leonards Church Together, Spring 2012

STOP PRESS...We are pleased to confirm that Church Together is hosting a performance of Riding Lights Theatre Company's touring production for the Olympic year. The copyright mis-spelling is deliberate! Those who have seen RLTC in performance before will know that a great evening's entertainment with an edge is guaranteed. Our performance will be generously hosted by King's Church at their premises; The Hastings Centre, The Ridge, Hastings TN34 2SA at 7.30pm, Thursday 26th April. Further publicity and the tickets will be circulating all our churches soon but book the date now! Groups of ten or more get discounted tickets at £9 each so get your friends together and save money. All proceeds will go to St Michael's Hospice in their 25th anniversary year.



Standing room only.... again!

At this year's Unity Service 400 people crowded into Holy Trinity Church in the Town centre along with Mayor Kim Forward, Deputy Mayor Alan Roberts and several other councillors to praise God and celebrate the increasing unity in the body of Christ in Hastings. Retired Police Chief Inspector Paul Wilson, now working with Redeeming our Communities, told us about the impact this exciting vision of Christians engaging with their communities.

Simon Jones spoke about More than Gold, encouraging Christians to engage with the 2012 Olympics and in particular the Olympic Torch visit to Hastings on July 17th and representatives also spoke on behalf of Hastings Christian Schools Workers and Night Church.

As well as the displays from local Christian charities and projects, the side chapel was set up as it was for Night Church. Tea and coffee were provided after the service and many stayed to mingle around the displays, where there many conversations.

Holy Trinity churchwarden Beryl Lovett summed up the event: " Lots of unity, lots of communication and good worship together".

RIDING LIGHTS
THEATRE COMPANY
PRESENTS

**MONSIEUR DE COUBERTIN'S
MAGNIFICENT
OPYMLIC
FEAT!**

Sprinting
backwards
to the start of
Games!

Thursday 26th April 7.30pm
KING'S CHURCH The Hastings Centre, The Ridge, Hastings, TN34 2SA
Tickets: £12.50, Concessions £10.00, Groups of 10+ £9.00
All profits from this performance will go to St Michael's Hospice (Reg Charity No: 288462)
Box Office: 01904 613000 st.michael's.hospice

RIDING
LIGHTS

The Snowflake Winter Night Shelter 2012-13

The Snowflake Trust estimates that on average 15 local people sleep rough in Hastings and St Leonards each night. They have been monitoring homelessness locally since 2005 and, as the recession deepens, the number of people sleeping on the streets is set to increase.

“I was a stranger and you welcomed me” Matthew 25

People on the margins of our society are particularly vulnerable in the winter months. The Snowflake Trust plans to open a winter night shelter from December 2012. The premises of seven local Christian communities will be open one night each week during the three winter months. These halls will all be in inner Hastings and St Leonards where they can be easily accessed by homeless persons.



The entire local Christian community is invited to participate by providing volunteers. So far offers of help have been received from Salvation Army and Holy Trinity, St Thomas of Canterbury, Christchurch, Park Road Methodist, St Mary Magdalene (Greek Orthodox), St John the Evangelist and St Matthews.

There are now 36 winter night shelters in England all using church halls as shelters one night each week in winter months. The Church Urban Fund's website "Shelter in a Pack" gives extensive information about how these winter night shelters are set up and operate or for further information about the Snowflake Trust's plans contact Christopher Maxwell-Stewart or Peter Bourner on 07547 482627



As the church in the 21st century in the UK, how do we reach the poor in our communities, help them practically and tell them the good news?

Christians Against Poverty is a charity who provide a professional debt counselling service and local churches have the opportunity to be an integral part of this and to reach people in your community who are suffering as a result of debt. They may be struggling to feed their families, depressed and alone. You will be there to show God's love in a real way. This partnership of CAP's service and the church's compassion is changing thousands of lives every year.



Sidley Baptist Church, Bexhill-on-Sea is the first church in our area to partner with CAP and have opened a CAP Debt Centre. The CAP Centre Manager states: "Our centre has now been running for over 9 months and in this time we have seen 36 clients reached with the message of Jesus, the debt counselling and the very practical help to become completely debt free. So far we have now seen 12 people make a commitment to Christ. At this point in time our CAP Centre has been covering postcodes in both Bexhill and Hastings but now with our centre running at its present full capacity, we will have to think about narrowing our postcodes to just the Bexhill area which makes the need for a full centre in Hastings all the more urgent."

CAP works in full partnership with the local church and when it comes to finances or volunteers there is the possibility of working with other churches in the area and pooling resources.

The next step for a church interested in partnering with us is for the senior leader(s) to attend a Church Partnership Day. This will give you an inspiring and detailed overview of the way CAP runs its high quality debt counselling service, allow you to experience the culture of CAP first hand and ask all the questions you need in order to fully understand the way that a partnership between CAP and the local church works. If you have further questions or would like to book onto a Church Partnership Day please contact Elaine Lee elainelee5@sky.com or call her on 07969 541470.

UK Foodbanks

13 million people live below the poverty line in the UK.

Every day people in the UK go hungry for reasons ranging from redundancy to receiving an unexpected bill on a low income. Trussell Trust foodbanks provide a minimum of three days emergency food and support to people experiencing crisis in the UK. Last year our UK foodbank network fed over 60,000 people experiencing food poverty. This year we'll feed over 100,000 people.

We partner with churches and communities to open new foodbanks nationwide. With over 170 foodbanks currently launched, our goal is for every town to have one.

Would you like to help with a Food Bank in Hastings and St Leonards? If so, please contact Natalie Williams at King's church where preparations are underway and involvement of other Christians from the town would be welcomed. For more information or to register interest please contact Natalie Williams at nataliewilliams@kingshastings.org or call her on 01424 755990



Healing Rooms and Healing on the Streets

There are currently two Healing Rooms in the town; His Place Church, Duke Road, St Leonards on Saturdays mornings 10 - 12, and St Andrews Square, Salvation Army Citadel, Sat 3 - 4 pm (except Summer, Christmas and Easter holidays) We also have team who stand outside MacDonalDs on most Saturdays from 11am to 1pm.

The teams are from various churches in the town and are all trained in ministry. We offer prayer for healing or any other reasons. No appointments are necessary and all, of any or no faith, are welcome. Healing Rooms Association is a national and international organisation, with charitable status. They train, oversee and monitor our activities.

If anyone is interested in what we are doing, Paul Clift from Healing Rooms England is coming to do a free training day on Saturday 23rd June from 9.30 to 5.30 at The Salvation Army Citadel, St Andrew's Square, Hastings. TN34 3SR. A light lunch will be supplied but all donations gratefully accepted! It will be a really interesting day, even if you have no intention of joining a team, so please join us.

Any questions or further info from Dr Susanne Jones 01424 719 271 or gugdoctor@talktalk.net

bereaved parents

a friendly relaxed group for those who have suffered miscarriage or infant loss

meets second thursday of every month
st michael's hospice, upper maze hill
st leonards. TN38 0LB
7.00pm to 9.00pm

come along and join us or
for more information
call jo 07917 891125 or
mirlees ward 01424 757047



hastings infertility support

a small friendly informal group
for those struggling with infertility

find out more call jo on 07917 891125
or email bunyip34@ymail.com



For SHADES' first ever pantomime, this was an enormous success. The audience loved the characters, the slapstick and the witty, simple pantomime humour as Natas, a nasty man tried to stop a local drama group from staging their Nativity Play. The strong local cast included Dance-Moves Performing Arts group from Bexhill-on-sea and Open Door Entertainers from MENCAP.



The Mayor, Kim Forward and local MP Amber Rudd, both attended the matinee and enjoyed the performance. Amber Rudd wrote "A fantastic show. It managed to be entertaining while promoting a serious message, which is an achievement. I was impressed by the enormous number of different ages and abilities that participated. My enjoyment was particularly enhanced by sitting behind the Rainbows who loved every minute and joyfully howled replies when invited to."

Some photos and video clips can be viewed on SHADES' website at www.shadestheatre.com and a DVD is available should anyone wish to see the show. Contact David Henty on 440076 or email davidhenty@shadestheatre.com

Encounters at Ashburnham Place

Ashburnham's purpose is that we aim to 'encourage guests to encounter the living God through the Bible, prayer, fellowship and the beauty of creation and to equip them make a more passionate and effective impact for Christ on the local area and the world'.

Ashburnham Encounters offer a relaxed programme, so that guests have the opportunity to encounter God and to be re-equipped to serve him.

12th April – Following the celebrations of Easter, Andrew Wooding Jones will guide our thoughts on 'Living the Resurrection Life'.

15th May – Danny Pritchard will lead a day of rest and reflection especially to encourage church leaders.

21st-24th May - This residential retreat with Tony Horsfall will open up to the whole range of the songs of faith contained in the book of Psalms.

11th July - Charles and Lynne Earwicker will guide a day of rest and renewal focussed around enjoyment of the lovely Ashburnham grounds and gardens.

More details on our website www.ashburnham.org.uk or 01424 894239.

Penhurst Retreat Centre

At Penhurst you can choose how you use your precious time. You can choose to be silent, to talk to or pray with somebody, to just rest or even sleep, to explore the countryside, to write, paint or read. There are a variety of different retreats, short courses and workshops on our programme or you can ask for an individually guided retreat.

Penhurst has a heart for mission. We are involved with the ongoing preparation, equipping and empowering of individuals for ministry overseas and in the UK.

One guest has recently written: *"It is hard to believe the positive and uplifting effect that coming on Retreat has had on me. My outlook on life has changed for the better. I feel much closer to God than at any time before and I have been left with a spiritual hunger which I guess may never now be truly satisfied. ... Penhurst is a beautiful, peaceful place and now has a very special place in my heart"*

We aim to support those who come through our door and we would love to be able to welcome you here!

Please pray for the work of the Centre and if you are able to volunteer your help and to share your skills and gifts with us, we are always on the lookout for willing hands. Whether it's regular or not, we'd welcome whatever you can offer. For directions and other information please see our website www.penhurst.org.uk or give us a ring on 01424 892088.