

Unity News

Summer 2014

Hastings and St Leonards Church Together



Global Day of Prayer

On June 8th about 50 of us met at Wellington Square Baptist church where our prayer focus was the persecuted church. The worst place to be a Christian is North Korea and we saw a short DVD produced by "Open Doors" showing why this was the case. An estimated

50,000 to 70,000 Christians live in concentration camps, prisons and prison-like circumstances under the regime of leader Kim Jong-Un. In the rest of the world, Zoe Baldock, Head of Advocacy at Open Doors says "the main engine driving persecution of Christians in 36 of the 50 countries where it is most difficult to be a Christian is Islamic extremism.

It also being Pentecost Sunday, we used four symbols of the Spirit, oil, water, fire and wind to help us focus on prayer needs for our brothers and sisters round the world.

Keeping in Touch - a course for those working or caring for people with Dementia

"The baby boomers are getting older, and will stay older for longer. And they will run right into the dementia firing range. How will a society cope? Especially a society that can't so readily rely on those stable family relationships that traditionally provided the backbone of care?"

Terry Pratchett

How many of you have been impacted by the creeping onset of dementia within your friends or family? How did you cope with this? How much did you know about this before you encountered it personally?

Church Together would like to offer help in being ready for the impact of Dementia. We have arranged a training day led by Acorn Christian healing foundation on Saturday.

Find out more about this course on their website www.acornchristian.org

We have arranged this course as a single day event on Saturday September 6th at St Barnabas church at 10 am, Hoads Wood Road and will meet the cost of the event from Church Together funds. Please let us know if you would like to attend as we need to ensure we have the sufficient workbooks. First come, first served with a maximum number of 30 places. Bring your own lunch.

Hastings very own

Songs of Praise

The Stade Open Space
(Next to the Jerwood Gallery)

Sunday 3rd August
6pm

Everyone Welcome

New church leaders



Simon and Sarah Larkin and their family (pictured top left) have recently arrived in Hastings from London to lead Holy Trinity in the town centre. They are currently with St Peter's Brighton for six months gathering a team of about 30 people who will move over to live in Hastings to begin a new phase of life at the church from November. Before ordination Simon had a background in international development, working in East Africa and then at the Tearfund headquarters in London.



We also welcome Charlie and Muriel Hill to Christ Church Blacklands, pictured left.

“I was in prison and you came to visit me...”

Sussex Pathways is a young and dynamic voluntary sector organisation that provides ‘through the gate’ mentoring to ex-offenders leaving prison.

Sussex Pathways mentor some of the most vulnerable people in the criminal justice system. Short sentence prisoners with a history of repeat offending and extremely high levels of homelessness, unemployment, drug and alcohol dependency and health problems. Despite this challenge Sussex Pathways’ volunteer mentors have supported many of the mentees to access a range of welfare services, assisting to find suitable accommodation and helping them to engage in drug and alcohol services. Sussex Pathways contributes to reducing the harm experienced within communities by a proven reduction in reoffending of 47% across the mentees it has worked with.

Sussex Pathways’ work is also of huge benefit to its volunteers; 95% of active volunteer mentors reported improved levels of confidence and 100% a better understanding of the criminal justice system as a result of their involvement with Sussex Pathways.

For more info visit their website www.sussexpathways.org.uk

**As seen at the
Unity Service**

Faith in the Marketplace

Ashburnham Christian Trust is hosting a new series of events, Faith in the Market Place, a group of regular meetings for Christians making their faith real within their spheres of work, comprising fellowship groups for those in Healthcare, Education, Business, Politics and hopefully Arts and Media. The first meeting focused on Christians working in Health and included encouraging and inspiring stories from Dr Shakil Malik, Clinical Director of Adult Mental Health for Sussex Partnership NHS Trust who spoke of the work of the Trust in collaboration with PRIME, the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund and the Catholic Diocese of Islamabad & Rawalpindi to bring in a values-based programme for healthcare, education and development leaders to address the widespread psychological trauma and social toxicity.

Prof Richard Vincent spoke on “Maintaining Optimism in the Face of Calamity”. To find hope facing the current criticisms, upheaval and demands of UK healthcare he suggested we look:

- Beyond media reports - to the evidence of good things happening in healthcare.
- Beyond the drivers of human systems and strategies - to the counter-cultural values and pattern of Jesus’ life and teaching.
- Beyond ourselves and our resources - to each other for encouragement; and to our Lord, constantly present, enabling us through his strength to bring light, listening and wisdom to the work-place.

The time spent in small groups, the prayers for each other and the plenary time at the end, when some really important ideas were shared, brought the evening to a close.

Next Meeting: Faith in The Market Place with Richard Jackson, Bishop of Lewes.

4th September at 7.15pm, Ashburnham Place, TN33 9NF

Due to the greater numbers expected there will, unfortunately, not be a meal on this occasion.

New SHADES Tour Coming Soon

SHADES Theatre Company's Major Production this year is a Tour of two one-act plays to three venues in Hastings. The first play is called *Alternative Accommodation*, by Pam Valentine, a poignant comedy about a family of three children who, believing their mother is suffering from dementia, plot to place her into a residential home or sheltered housing and sell the family house. After much discussion by the children, a meeting with their mother leads to an unexpected and humorous ending.

The second play is entitled *The Bishop's Candlesticks*, by Norman McKinnel and is adapted from an incident in Victor Hugo's novel, *Les Miserables*. A noble and kind-hearted Bishop has sold all his silver to pay for a poor lady's house rent. He is now very poor and has just a pair of silver candlesticks left. An escaped convict, desperate and hungry, breaks in and threatens to kill the Bishop unless he gives him food. The convict is also tempted by the silver candlesticks and steals them. When he's caught by the police and marched back to the Bishop's cottage with the candlesticks, the final scene gives us all much food for thought.

Both plays are being performed at the following three venues on these dates;

- Saturday 11th October at His Place Community Church, Robertson Street at 7.30 pm.
- Friday October 17th at Sunrise Church, Bohemia Road at 7.30 p.m.
- Saturday 25th October at The Salvation Army Temple, Old London Road, Ore at 7.30 pm.

More details about each performance will be announced by mid August on the SHADES website at www.shadestheatre.com. In the mean time more information can be obtained from David Henty 01424 440076 or email info@shadestheatre.com.

Three Ways to Change the World

1 - Help get across the real meaning of Christmas - Champion the humble Christmas card. A Christmas card, delivered by hand means so much more. This year Traidcraft are putting together something really special to help. November 15th -24th will be 'Buy a charity Christmas Card Week'. Last year we estimate a Traidcraft card stood on two million mantelpieces across the UK. If we help meet the target, there will be ¼ million more so we're asking every Fair Trader to try to order and sell 10 more packs than usual.

2 - Lobby your MEP. Traidcraft along with other campaigners has been lobbying Europe to challenge the power of the supermarkets. The European Commissioner has acknowledged that supermarkets mistreat their suppliers. But the internal politics of Europe is delaying this work. So we are being urged to write to our new MEPs to express our concern for effective enforcement of EU rules.

3 - Change to Fairtrade Palm Oil Washing Liquids. People say their laundry smells good, their hand wash does the job well, the washing up liquid is economical, and we like the bars of soap too. And it is eco friendly. Buy yours at the Christmas with a Difference Sale - see dates for your diary on the back page.



Heritage Open Day

This year several local churches will be taking part in the Heritage Open Day on Saturday 13th September. At the time of going to press we have only some details from St Leonards Church on the Marina, St Leonards which will be open to the public from 10.30am - 3.30pm. A special 'Night Church Experience' is planned for those who are not able to venture into the town centre late on Saturday night.

There will also be stalls and information from Fairtrade/Traidcraft, Street Pastors, and other charities supported by the church. Church Together understands that several other local churches are taking part too - Christ Church, London Road, St. John the Evangelist and Church in the Wood.

Enjoy Summer with a 1st Sunday Walk

Keep fit, make friends and explore the countryside around us. Afternoon walks for the whole family and friends along a guided route of between 3-4 miles, sometimes with shorter options.

See 'dates for your diary'

The Big Lunch

What a great idea and one that was shown perfectly by the communities of St Leonards. Despite the slight fear of showers, the weather decided it would be on our side and fortunately held out for this great community get-together.

Sonrise Church decided to join the 7 Streets in hosting their own Big Lunch for the community of Bohemia.

Pastor Glenn Khan expressed his delight to Unity News

on the success of The Big Lunch experience: "It was

great to open our large building of St Peters to the local community and host the Big Lunch. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet our neighbours and make new friends. We were very pleased with the response and incredibly grateful to all those who helped out. I thoroughly enjoyed my afternoon at the Big Lunch and truly believe that bringing together communities, forging friendships and bonds, should be at the very centre of what we do. Thank you to everyone who contributed to a successful June afternoon and we look forward to repeating the same next year, but making it even better. For more information on the Big Lunch, please visit the following website -

www.thebiglunch.com



Do you have Bibles and Christian books which could be sent to Uganda - if so please email Richard Smart on richafrica3@yahoo.co.uk

Dates for your Diary

August

Sun 3rd Songs of Praise, The Stade Open Space. 6pm. All welcome
First Sunday Walk - Flowers along the Rother – and views of a castle, a now regular favourite. Meet at the car park of Bodiam Castle at 2.30pm for a walk of between 4 and 5 miles. A great opportunity for a picnic.

September

Thurs 4th Faith in The Market Place with Richard Jackson, Bishop of Lewes. 7.15pm at Ashburnham Place, TN33 9NF
Sat 6th Keeping in Touch (See article on front page) St Barnabas Church, Hoads Wood Road, 10am to 3pm. Bring your own lunch. Refreshments provided. Booking required in advance.
Sun 7th First Sunday Walk - Spectacular views and Hidden Glens in the Country Park Meet at Fairlight Country Park Car Park by the Information Office at 2.30pm to walk through woods and to viewpoints along the cliffs. 3.5 miles with a 2 mile option.
Sat 13th Heritage Open Day, St Leonard's Church from 10.30am - 3.30pm

October

Sun 5th First Sunday Walk - Ramble around Robertsbridge. Meeting at 2.30pm at Salehurst Church (turn right at the roundabout at the end of the Robertsbridge Bypass) 3.5 miles.
Sat 11th SHADES at His Place Community Church, Robertson Street at 7.30 pm.
Fri 17th SHADES at Sonrise Church, Bohemia Road at 7.30 p.m.
Sat 25th SHADES at The Salvation Army Temple, Old London Road, Ore at 7.30 pm.
Tues 28th Talk Marriage, Darvell, Robertsbridge 10.30am to 4pm For more details www.talkmarriage.co.uk
Weds 29th The Tabernacle Evangelical Church, Prophetic Witness Movement International. Meeting 4.30pm & 6.30pm - Two talks relating to "End Times" and the "Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ". for more details call 427265

November

Fri 7th & Sat 8th Christmas with a Difference, Fairtrade at 11 Ashford Road from 10am to 8pm

Hastings and St Leonards Church Together

www.hastingschurches.org.uk

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