

Unity News

Spring 2014

Hastings and St Leonards Church Together



A Packed House for the Unity Service

On January 26 four hundred folk from many different churches in Hastings and St Leonards gathered at the King's Centre for our annual Unity Service under the title of "The Call of the Kingdom". We were pleased to be joined by the Mayor of Hastings, Councillor Alan Roberts, the Leader of the Council Jeremy Birch and several other councillors. Richard Jackson, adviser in mission and renewal to the diocese of Chichester spoke to this theme. A major element of the meeting was the displays by twenty nine different organisations and groups serving our community in a wide range of ways. Three of these groups had won awards in the current 'Hastings Achievers' evening sponsored by the Hastings Observer. A special thanks to Kings church for making their excellent venue available to all. We needed all the space going!

If you missed the message you can hear it again on the Church Together website www.hastingschurches.org.uk

Richard Jackson has just been appointed as the new Anglican Bishop of Lewes and will take up his new role from May this year. Big congratulations to him and we look forward to seeing him touring Sussex on his Harley Davidson. You can hear an interview with him on the Chichester Diocese website <http://www.chichester.anglican.org/news/2014/03/17/new-bishop-lewes-appointed/>



AGM
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Church Together and LOAF AGM will be held at Church in the Wood, off Church Wood Drive, St Leonards on Sea on Tuesday 6th May at 7.30pm. We are again combining the two AGs. Please attend and also prayerfully consider whether you should be looking at the possibility of joining either of the existing steering groups for these two 'church Hastings' ventures.

Adopt-a-Street launches in Hastings

Adopt-a-Street programmes are now operating in more than 450 cities worldwide in 40 nations with many amazing testimonies occurring as God's kingdom is ushered into cities street by street. The scheme operates on the principles of Prayer Evangelism taken from Luke Chapter 10: 5-9, speaking peace and blessing over the people, businesses, schools and institutions on the street, having fellowship with the people, meeting felt needs and sharing the Gospel.



Adopt-a-street was launched in Hastings on November 2013 at the opening of His Place Church in Robertson Street. To date we have over 200 streets adopted, with several churches and ministries participating and testifying to answers to prayer as peace descends on noisy neighbourhoods and the Lord opens doors for involvement in the local community and opportunities to present the Gospel. At present the regions with most prayer coverage are the coastal areas spreading gradually upwards, with the least amount of coverage in northern Hastings and parts of St Leonards. Most groups have taken responsibility for a geographical area and their members pray over the streets individually or together as the Lord leads. We are looking for more individuals, churches and Christian organisations to get involved so that every street in Hastings and St Leonards will be prayed for and the spiritual climate over our town changed.

In May, His Place Church will be broadcasting live some of Ed Silvoso's teachings about prayer evangelism and transformation of cities and nations, (The School of Transformation), on Thursday evenings which feature testimonies from all over the world where transformation is taking place. These meetings will be open to Christians from all denominations and will start on Thursday 8th May. For more info email Hisplace16@gmail.com.



You can adopt a street by clicking on www.transformourworld.org/en/adopt or contact Caroline Wick, pictured with the Mayor and Mayoress left at the recent Unity Service, email hisplace16@gmail.com and have it logged for you.

Caroline Wick

A New Church Leader appointed

We are delighted to announce that after nearly four years without a full time incumbent we will shortly be welcoming Rev Charlie Hill as Priest in Charge to Blacklands. Charlie should be starting mid May. Our heartfelt thanks go to Rev Canon John Fletcher and Pam, his wife who have been supporting and guiding us through these days of vacancy.

Blacklands PCC

Prayer Spaces in Schools

Hastings Christian Schools Workers are preparing to take up a new initiative called "Prayer Spaces in Schools". The first project will be at Guestling Bradshaw C of E Primary School with the strong backing of the Headteacher. Other Headteachers and staff from other schools will be invited to visit during the week of May 19th. Please pray that this will lead to invitations to set up Prayer Spaces in many other schools around the town.

Find out more www.prayerspacesinschools.com



Night Church starts in the Old Town

Having seen the success of Night Church in the town centre, we in the Old Town parish of St Clement with All Saints felt there was a need at this end of town to serve the evening economy. As a parish we have been looking for some form of Christian outreach and felt that this may prove to be a good idea. After visiting Holy Trinity and getting some very useful advice we went ahead with some trepidation for our first venture at St Clements on March 15th.



We got there early to set everything up and then opened the doors. Some of us were on the street telling people what was happening and others inside making tea and coffee, hot soup was left over from our coffee morning too. It was great to welcome fellow Christians from around the town who had come to offer support. There was a steady trickle of people, forty in total. We had no idea who to expect but there were people of all ages, not just the young. Some just came in to be curious, others to be still and light a candle and others who really needed somebody to talk to. One elderly couple were here on holiday. They had sadly buried their best friend the day before they went away, and had found the funeral lacking in something. They had come in to sit peacefully and came to thank us saying that they had found comfort and found God. To them it felt like it was 'meant to be' and they asked that we share their story. Others were troubled in various ways and all had a helping hand or a listening ear.

At the end of the evening we sat and shared our experiences and thanked God for bringing us to this point. I have no doubt that the Holy Spirit is moving in the Old Town and am overwhelmed at how things are transforming so quickly. We are even having a lent group in a local pub. We decided that we would continue on the third Sunday of the month therefore complementing the Night Church in the town centre. Somehow most of us managed to get to church the following morning because we had things to do like the readings or serving, but we were all tired, albeit in a pleasant way. Our next meeting is on Easter Eve and we all will definitely need to be up the following morning! We have also asked God for help to share the load and would be very pleased to welcome other Christians from around the town who may be able to spare some time or who are night owls. Anybody who could go on a rota can contact the parish office on 422242 or office@oldtownparish.org.uk and we will be in touch.

Keith Leech



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

Traidcraft Spring Sale

11 Ashford Road, Hastings
Friday 11th and Saturday 12th April
10am to 8pm
Including products from the new Spring Catalogue and many sale items



The Gideons International
www.gideons.org

Members of the Hastings & Rother Branch of The Gideons International continue to place copies of God's Word wherever there is an opportunity for it to be read. Apart from the most well-known locations – hotels and guesthouses – the local hospitals' bedside lockers and general waiting areas are regularly 'topped-up', and, at the Conquest, members are supported by the Hospital Chaplaincy Team.

90 Care Homes are systematically contacted, and in January some 70 Bibles – mainly large-print – were delivered to 14 premises. Members of the Emergency Services, now including Street Pastors, are offered pocket-sized Testaments, as are those in the uniformed Youth Organisations.

It has long been national policy to offer Testaments to 7th Year students during their first term of secondary education. Until two years ago this was always accomplished in the 10 schools in our area, but the recent changes to Academy status, and resultant changes in staff, has contributed to severe delays in our programme – only 4 invitations so far in the current academic year. Please pray for the students who are missing out receiving their "little red book" in Year 7 (and some who are now in Years 8 and 9 as well).

We are grateful for the prayerful and financial support given by our Branch's 95 'Friends of the Gideons'. We welcome invitations from churches and groups to speak of our work – both local and world-wide (196 countries). For more information please call Don Valentine 428832 or Richard Butcher 446548

Snowflake Night Shelter operated on all seven nights of the week over the Winter, and closed its doors at the end of February having been open for 103 days. Working in three shifts per night, 175 volunteers from various Christian communities, members of other faiths - and those of no faith - welcomed 64 Guests (12% up on last year) to a different church hall location each night of the week, providing them with a safe environment, hospitality, accommodation, evening meals and breakfasts. Significantly, through the excellent work of Snowflake's Project Manager and relationships built up with other charities and relevant agencies, 24 Guests were assisted to move into their own or other suitable accommodation. The project, dependent as it is upon the unstinting support of the local Churches and their communities, is truly an example of 'Church Together' in Hastings & St Leonards.

John Reid



STREET PASTORS

Exploding the Myths...



“ I couldn’t manage to give time to help Street Pastors every weekend.” Street Pastors & Prayer Pastors complete on average just one duty (a Thursday, Friday, or Saturday evening) each month.

“ I am not confident about preaching the Gospel in the street.” We do not go out to preach the Word of God, but rather to enact the Word of God. Providing you can listen and unconditionally care for & love people then you have the skills required. This doesn’t mean that we don’t get asked questions about Jesus Christ & the Word of God, and we are happy to respond as a team when asked.

“ I am too old for this work” Our Street & Prayer Pastor Teams range in age from 18 years old upwards to people in their 80’s. If spending prolonged periods of time on your feet is a challenge, then we would welcome you into our vitally important Prayer Pastor Team. We would not go out without the protection of a team of Prayer Pastors at our base, or, in some cases, praying for us from home during duties.

“Isn’t it dangerous” In four years we have had only one incident when a male member of one of our teams was slapped and this was quickly dealt with through the support of club doormen & members of the public, who expressed outrage that this had happened. It is fairly rare to get verbal abuse. We do get our legs pulled with cries of “Street Pasties” & similar and we encourage this friendly banter. We believe that we are protected through prayer & the Holy Spirit.

“ I couldn’t pray for 4- 6 hours” Most of us have thought this before becoming a Prayer Pastor, but when it has come to it the time has flown past in the joy of this extended time of seeking the Lord’s heart with other Brothers & Sisters in Christ. We all enjoy meeting & praying with people from the 23 fellowships represented in Hastings Street & Prayer Pastors and new friends are quickly made.

If you would be interested in finding out more about Hastings Street Pastors, or would like to observe an evenings street &/or prayer duties then please contact Martin West, Street Pastor Co-ordinator on 07964 167870 or email them hastings@streetpastors.org.uk

Local Church Ruins now restored



The recently formed Friends of Old St Helen’s Church are holding Open Days (weather permitting) on the 2nd Saturday of each month from April to October between 10am and 4pm.

The wonderfully-restored ruins of the old church were officially opened in May 2013. Although the picturesque and peaceful site can be visited at any time, members of the Friends will be available on the Open Days to answer questions and allow access (between 10am and 2pm) to the top of the original tower to obtain panoramic views via some old steps and new staircase.

The ruins are situated off Ore Place (near the top of Elphinstone Road) but parking is limited. For more information please call Chris Floyd 07854 008135 email cjf.oshc@gmail.com or Andy Lee 01424 752032 email kelseypad@yahoo.co.uk

Hastings Healing Rooms is moving to His Place Church, Robertson Street, Hastings, TN34 1HL

Open 3-4 pm Saturday afternoons (except main school holidays).

No appointments needed.



look good **feel better**
SUPPORTING WOMEN WITH CANCER

The charity 'Look Good Feel Better' is the only international cancer support charity providing practical support for women and teenagers suffering from the visible side effects of cancer treatment.

Now opened in Hasting, the group is looking for donations of any unused and unopened beauty products to help ladies who may be suffering the side effects of cancer treatments.

If you would like to donate unopened or new beauty product please pass them to Barbara Powell-Jones (Lay Chaplain to Sussex Coast College) or put them in a bag with her name on and hand into the reception at college. More info on the website www.lookgoodfeelbetter.co.uk

Free Red Cross Carers Support Service and Volunteer Opportunity

This free short term care and support for unpaid carers has recently become available in Hastings and St Leonards and does much to enhance quality of life by supporting the carer and person they care for. The Service offers: companionship, light housework, meal preparation and shopping, looking after pets, signposting to other organisations and more.

To make contact Telephone 0800 0208 831 or email:

enquirieskentandsussex@redcross.org.uk

We are also recruiting and training volunteer carers so please do get in touch if you can help.



Night church in Holy Trinity church in the town centre continues to be open on the first Saturday night of each month. We are very grateful to Hastings Lions for their generous donation of £1500. It makes such a difference to keeping going.

Hot news.... Arrow FM, the local radio station, have asked for an interview with Night Church. We can tell them there are now two!

Dates for your diary

The Church of St. Thomas of Canterbury and English Martyrs (part of the Parish of The Good Shepherd), Magdalen Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, warmly invite you to '**Prayer around the Cross**', a Service of Music and Prayer from Taize, on Good Friday evening, 18th April, at 8 pm.

The recently formed **Friends of Old St Helen's Church** are holding open days at the newly restored St Helen's Church just off the Ridge on the second Saturday of each month from 10am to 4pm from April to October including the opportunity to explore the ruins and climb the tower to see a wonderful panoramic view.

Inter Church Quiz, Saturday 10th May at Calvert Methodist Church from 7.30pm. £2 per head. Max 8 per team. More info please email Vic Thwaites vicandevelyn@tiscali.co.uk

Penhurst Retreat Centre have details of their varied 2014 Retreat programme on their website <http://www.penhurst.org.uk/programme.php>

Hastings and St Leonards Church Together
www.hastingschurches.org.uk

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