



Unity News

Hastings and St Leonards Church Together
Summer 2013

Churches unite to open new debt Counselling centre

In the midst of an economic downturn even church congregations in the local area were so keen to do something about hardship in their communities that they have united to partner with debt counsellors Christians Against Poverty (CAP) to make the award winning service available. Hastings & St. Leonards is one of 19 places opening a CAP centre in the last month rare good news for the UK amid economic downturn and the latest centre will join three others in the region helping people in Bexhill, Hailsham and Brighton.



The launch service was hosted at King's Church in June and attended by around 130 local Christians from different denominations. The churches involved are St Leonard's Baptist Church, St. Matthew's Church, King's Church, Calvert Methodist Church, The Salvation Army in Hastings, St Helen's Church and Wellington Square Baptist Church.

Hastings & St Leonards Centre Manager Nick Warren said: *"The church has always been about offering hope and we're really pleased to be able to give a tried and tested route out of debt alongside other great free debt advice in the area like Citizens' Advice. There is a lot in the Bible about looking after the poorest in our society, a lot of poverty is debt related so our congregations have been working hard to open a CAP centre to help get people back on track."*

CAP offers people a uniquely in depth, caring service to people with spiralling personal debt regardless of their age, gender, faith or background. Every client is visited in their own home, the charity does all the negotiating with creditors and local volunteers offer support to each person face to face until the day they are debt free. Continued (inside...)



Fond(Farewells..

Three of our much loved local church leaders are moving on To pastures new in the coming weeks.



Father Ian Byrne is taking a year sabbatical before moving to another parish in Sussex.



Rev Chris Key is moving to St Lukes, Maidstone.



Father Andy Perry is moving to the Parish of Portslade.

Nick added: *“Typically, debts can build up when a relationship breaks down, or someone loses their job, or through bereavement—so so often when people are least able to cope with a financial headache. We’re just so Pleased to be able to partner the care of our churches with the financial experiences of CAP’s head office in Bradford.”*

The charity has 233 centres around the UK currently supporting £75m of secondary debts for its clients. The free debt counselling has won a string of accolades including being described as “unsurpassed” by TV’s Money Saving Expert Martin Lewis.

Anyone in need of debt advice and support can contact us on 0800 328 0006.

www.capuk.org

“That was Epic!”

This was just one of the enthusiastic comments from pupils of seven of our primary schools visiting the LIFE Exhibition in April. The LIFE Exhibition is created by Counties, the nationwide evangelistic organisation. It travels the country presenting the basic beliefs that Christians hold about Jesus. It aims to support the RE curriculum for Years 5 & 6 pupils but can also be used as an evangelistic tool for churches to use with adults. Many children wrote letters of thanks afterwards saying things like:

“Thank you for the visit and telling us all about God and Jesus. I found it very interesting.”

“The thing I found most interesting was the bit about Jesus and how he came back to life.”

“Best RE lesson ever! I loved it! The best day of my life!”

“My favourite bit was the quiz because I nearly knew all of them. I wish I had stayed there a little longer.”

The Exhibition was brought to Hastings and organised locally by Christian Schools Work Hastings (CSWH). The Venue was St Peter and St Paul Church in Parkstone Road which was offered enthusiastically by the Rev Luke Dean, the Vicar, and the congregation. It proved an ideal venue in every way, making an immediate impact on the children, many of whom came expecting their mental image of church as an old fashioned gloomy environment. CSWH staff members were supported by over 30 volunteers from various churches helping to welcome and look after the children, with the presentation of much of the material, in supervising the technology and in serving refreshments.

The children were transported to and from the Exhibition by coach. During the week it was in Hastings the exhibition was fully booked and over 700 children visited in school parties during the day. Some 50 adults visited on the two evening and one weekend sessions.

Entering the Exhibition children were first shown a video of pupils their own age commenting on what they knew and thought of Jesus. The question “What do *you* think of Jesus?” became the theme to explore throughout the visit. They then moved on to rotate around three “zones”, each with the help of presenters and the tablets which seem to have made such an impression. The trial, death and resurrection were dealt with by a video about which some children commented: “My favourite parts were the film and the quiz. The film was really interesting but a bit scary though.” Comments from teaching staff were universally supportive with the only criticism that the children might have liked more time to explore some of the activities. Finally, in a café area, they were served refreshments while they worked through an electronically interactive quiz with a presenter emphasising finally the core theme “What do *you now* think of Jesus?”







Financially the venture was generously funded by Hastings Youth Trust, with support from the Magdalen and Lasher Educational Foundation for incidental expenses. So successful was the whole venture that CSWH hopes to arrange a return of the Exhibition in 2015 When a new Year 5/6 cohort will be in the schools.



Global Day of Prayer & Trivial Pursuits?

On Sunday 19th May around 60 of us met at His Place Community Church for the annual Global Day of Prayer service. We are grateful to Chris Sears and his fellowship for hosting this event for us. Chris led our initial time of worship with a scratch band and the 'home team' provided refreshments at the close.

We used some of the web available material to emphasise our union with Christians around the world but took, as our particular theme, prayer for the continents and this is where Trivial Pursuits comes in. Those of you who played this will know that correct answers win 'pieces of cheese' which go to fill up your pie. We prayed for the continents of America, Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia and Antarctica which, it appears, are the recognized continents. [Hands up who thought Australasia was one? Apparently we're wrong.] We wrote extracts of our prayers on blank cheeses to make up a globe for which we had prayed. Here are a selection of the prayers....

-  Europe - Lord, light a revival fire in our nation that will spread through out Europe and beyond to the whole world. Erwecke mein Vaterland und sei gesegnet bei der Liebe Deines Vaters im Himmel. (Awaken my country, and be blessed with the love of your Father in heaven.)
-  Asia - For God to speak to Muslims in dreams and visions. That the doors of prison number 15 will be broken apart and your people released to their homes, families and fellowships
-  Australia - We pray for reconciliation for non indigenous and aboriginal australians and for our namesake towns of Hastings in both Australia & New Zealand
-  Antarctica - Lord, please bless the research here, impact the researchers with revelation from You. Protection for all wildlife
-  America - For gun control. Pray for Hollywood, and the creative and music industries who have such influence, that they will be saved and influence the world
-  Africa - For Hastings Sierra Leone and our friendship link. Picture: many hands raised up to the Lord - the people of Africa - see the Lord looking over them pouring his anointing out on them - meeting their need



Flash news – Sun detected in Hastings!

In case you missed it, the Sun has officially been detected in Hastings. It was seen at the LOAF organized 'Music on a Summer Afternoon' fund raiser in the grounds of Friary Gardeners, part of the Parchment Trust services for folk with learning disability. In the delightful old walled garden an extraordinary array of musical talent entertained us as we picnicked... Yes, in the Sun! The music included the local choir 'The Melodions', a close harmony a capella quartet, 'Now and Then' [because they only sing now and then] and, by popular request, a return of Roger Mitchell on his watering can. Over £700 was raised for the two charities of Parchment Trust and Syrian civil war refugees. The evening culminated with 'Songs of Praise' in the restored ruins of the old St Helen's church which peep over the garden wall. I'm pretty sure this event will be repeated, such has been its sustained success, so watch out for next year' if you missed this one.



Two new watering holes

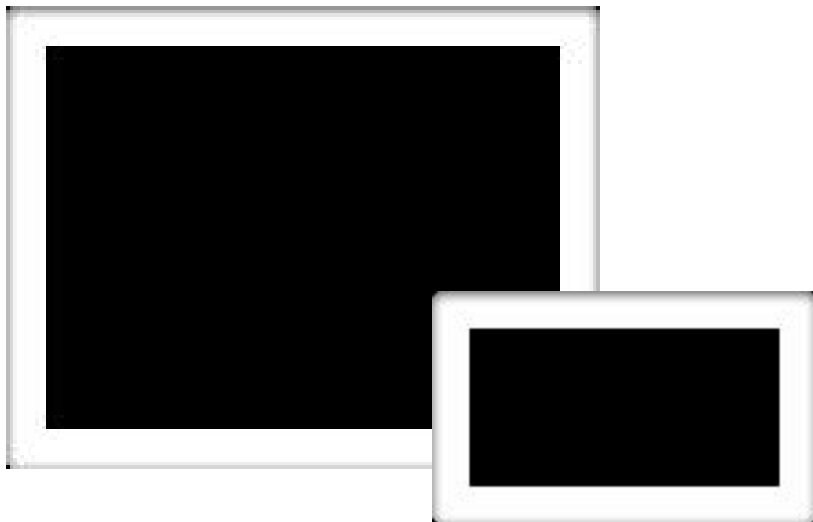
Coffee, cake, squashy chairs, manicured lawn with fountain and lake view, the oldest camellia in Sussex? Sound appealing? All of these will shortly be available to you if you visit King's Centre on the Ridge and Ashburnham Christian Trust.

King's Centre have the 'Coffee Box' now open in their reworked centre on the Ridge opposite the Conquest Hospital, providing coffee and light refreshments with the option of sitting outdoors where there are both long views inland and a play area for little ones. I wonder if they serve 'Babyccino'? Capuccino is certainly available. Buy a hot drink and you get 2 hours free parking, just take the bottom part of your parking ticket to the coffee counter.

www.coffeeboxhastings.co.uk



Ashburnham Christian centre are opening the old Orangery, hence the appearance of an very old, very big camellia, and, weather permitting, tables and chairs will also be available on the lawn outside with the fountain and lake views free. This should be open to us all from September and your coffee sleuth will keep you posted. ACT have also just produced their latest programme which you can check out on this link. www.ashburnham.org.uk



Dates for your Diary

- July 6th Night Church, Holy Trinity Church from 10pm until late
14th Hastings Youth Event, Indoor Beach Party, Wellington Square Baptist Church 7pm to 9pm
24th Prayer in the Town Hall Council Chambers: 5pm
- Aug 3rd Night Church, Holy Trinity Church from 10pm until late
4th A Garden Full of Cultural Delights, organised by the Interfaith Forum, 1pm to 5pm
- Sept 7th Penhurst Retreat Centre open day, from 3pm
www.penhurst.org.uk
- Oct 23rd Prayer in the Town Hall Council Chambers: 5pm
- Dec 18th Prayer in the Town Hall Council Chambers: 5pm



Hastings and St Leonards Church Together

www.hastingschurches.org.uk

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