



October
&
November
2026

Central United Reformed Church Derby Magazine



50 Years of Witness: A Golden Journey

Pastoral Letter for Derby Central's 50 th Church Anniversary

To: The saints in Christ Jesus who are in Derby Central …

I wonder if, reading the wording above, your immediate reaction was a mixture of "that's over the top!" and "does this letter need re-directing"? In other words, "I don't see myself as a saint"!

The words are adapted from Paul and Timothy's greeting in the first verse of their letter to the Philippians (Phil. 1:1). And they were addressing all who were part of the Church there. (Actually, Paul and Timothy then add, with the bishops and deacons.) So, some two thousand years after they wrote to the saints at Philippi, I am delighted to be invited to write to you, the saints who are at Derby Central. And by "saints" I mean all of you.

I send my warmest congratulations to you on reaching this significant anniversary as a fellowship. Happy Golden Anniversary! In competitive contexts, achieving gold status equates with "top marks" – often as a result of considerable effort and energy being devoted to reaching gold. In rating terms, of course, "gold" equates with being the very best choice. I am sure that in some senses this is true for you, as Central, as you mark your 50th anniversary. I hope that you feel a sense of effort and energy well expended, together with the conviction that as a congregation – a gathering of saints – Central is a great choice, perhaps even the best choice. Yet, any and every church knows that the efforts and quality of a

church is not dependent on the human element but, rather, on the recognition that all that is best about a church is drawn from the love, mercy and grace of God. In the refrain of one of my all-time favourite hymns – Love is his word, love is his way – Luke Connaughton offers these words:

Richer than gold is the love of my Lord: better than splendour and wealth.

(Luke Connaughton (1919-1979) © McCrimmon Publishing Co. Ltd.)

Ultimately it is within the love of God that we find true gold; such gold, as Connaughton says, is "better than splendour and wealth". It was observed of the Early Church, "See how these Christians love one another". The reputation of the gospel, let alone the church, hangs to a large extent on how the love of [our] Lord is embodied, seen and known in the lives of those who are the saints in Christ Jesus.

As you mark your golden anniversary and continue in faithful worship and witness in the coming years, may you treasure above all else, more than any reputation (splendour) or strength of resources (wealth), that humbling sense of gratitude for the priceless love of our Lord and the amazing fact that God entrusts the work of the church to ordinary folk like you and me – people God regards as saints in Christ Jesus.

I conclude with the verse that follows Paul and Timothy's greeting:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Phil. 1: 2)

With my love and prayers,



Revd Geoffrey Clarke, Moderator, East Midlands Synod

IMPORTANT

The Derby Church secretaries will be meeting at the Manse, chaired by Rev. Dr. Kirsty Thorpe, on 13th October at 7 pm. Much prayer will be appreciated.

Christine

Craft on Friday is cancelled on 2nd October!!!



The First united 'Central' Service at Victoria House.

I don't remember any of the Service content, but I do remember the exhilaration of worshipping in a full church (and with three Ministers to lead!)

Had we done the right thing in joining three disparate churches, and how well would we meld together in our (new to most) surroundings? To mark our coming together the wood block floor of the sanctuary had been revarnished, and my enduring memory of the occasion was the all-pervading smell of hot varnish, caused by the underfloor heating (which was still working at that time). I think that we also stuck to the still slightly 'tacky' floor, with corresponding sound effects!

Did it work? I think the answer is yes, as we slimmed down an Eldership of 36, and reduced to one Minister. I think that although we all had memories of our origin churches, by the time we left Victoria House and moved to Stuart House there was no 'them and us'

It's been a privilege and delight to be a 'Central' member for 66 years, since Stella and I were married at Normanton Road in1960.

Peter Allen

We will all miss Stella and the joy she brought into the church. Thank you Peter for the many, many ways you have contributed to the life of the church.

Memories

Back in 1976, three Derby churches became one: Victoria Street Congregational Church, Normanton Road Congregational Church, and Green Lane Presbyterian Church, forming what we now know as Central URC.

At this time, I had moved away, newly married, so I missed this event. After a few moves around the country, I returned to Derby in 1989, coming back to Central. The first person I met was the lovely Josie McGill ironing the communion linen. She made me feel so welcome; it was like I had never been away-so many people from my childhood: May Stephenson, Frances Orchard, Winifred Baldwin, Colin Tonks, Joyce Wilson, Jean Kingsbury, to name just a few.

At the time, the church was in a vacancy. We were joined by Rev Paul Quilter. The church had a busy Junior Church. We had a trainee minister, Sally Martin, who encouraged a group of Mums to start a toddler Group-still in existence today!

After a few years, Paul felt the time was right to move, and we were joined by Rev Graham Maskery. Graham led a very busy church. I recall the camping trips with all ages. Marie and Gordon Tough lent me a tent one year, ensuring that I never 'camped' again. Everyone had a good time, singing in the Boys Brigade Tent.

Graham moved to York, and Rev David Downing joined us. David was keen to set up a music group with Judy and Steve Levitt, which was a great addition to our worship.

We made use of our recreation Ground at Brayfield Road holding services and family picnics.

David finally moved on to Maidenhead so we were in a vacancy situation. Times had changed and our new minister would now be looking after 3 churches. In 2018, we were joined by Rev Judith Tatton-Schiff. During Judith's time with us we moved our church to its current site; during this time Covid reared its ugly head, preventing us from having a full-on opening. After holding a small dedication service, we returned to worshipping carefully social distancing.

Judith moved on and we were joined by Rev Kevin Jones. Sadly, Kevin's time was short with us and he retired due to ill health so once again we find ourselves in a vacancy situation.

Here we are today -a smaller congregation than we were in 1976.

We welcomed Derby Inclusive Fellowship who meet three times a month, led by Terry Nash and with whom we are making strong ties.

We hope and pray a new minister is out there but in the meantime we give thanks for all who lead us each Sunday and our congregation who embrace all our different worship styles. We give thanks for what has been and look forward in prayer for what tomorrow may bring.

Jill Barling

We give thanks, Jill, for the many things you do for Central. especially in keeping us provided with preachers year after year.

Memories of Central Music: Marie Tough

I was not actively involved with the music at Central at the beginning as I had 2 small children. I remember 2 organists, Derek Reaney from Normanton Road and Norman Smith from Green Lane, each with a different style of playing. Norman was very traditional but Derek very often played the hymns in jazz time. After Derek left, I deputised for Norman and then when Norman died, I took over playing full time and Crawford Patterson deputised for me.

There was a pipe organ in the church at that time, built in 1963 which lasted till 1992 (29yrs), during that time being temperamental and wheezing at certain temperatures. The cost was high to repair so a Norwich electric organ replaced it lasting till 2026 when it stopped, having given no trouble for 34 years. (During that time, in 2006, a Yamaha keyboard was purchased to allow music to be played in the other rooms). In 2026 having searched in vain to find someone to repair the electric organ, it was replaced by a Roland Keyboard which will give organ sounds and also help the church move into the 21 st Century.

Marie Tough

And how lucky we are to have Marie still to play and provide music for our worship services. Thank you from us all at Central .

When Jim and I joined the church in 2011, we were visited by Rev David Downing. He asked if we had areas of the church to which we could contribute and I said I had been involved in Junior Church in previous Churches.

What a lovely group of people I joined. The Junior church was led by Judy Levitt very ably supported by Jen Downing, Gill Barling, Lesley Breblner, Stella Allen and Charlotte O' Toole.

2 of my favourite memories are Christmas based and occurred during the Christmas services.

SURPRISE: Our nativities were always fairly impromptu, never knowing how many children would attend. David had asked in vain for someone to come forward to play Mary. After many minutes of silence, Colin, a regular and somewhat unorthodox attender of our services, stood up and said ,"Well, I'll be Mary then"; stepped forward and was solemnly given a piece of blue cloth for his head. Possibly the first ever male Mary with a beard! A moment to enjoy forever!

DISMAY; Approximately 30mins before another Festival service was due to begin, we were very carefully moving the very expensive and quite new Willowtree nativity set, some of which had been bought from America. Imagine our horror when Joseph fell off the table and rolled onto the floor, losing his head at the same time. We didn't know whether to laugh or cry. Nobody moved. We were all in shock. However, a piece of blue tack placed carefully on the neck saved the day and allowed Joseph to take his place, with the congregation being none the wiser. He was then meticulously repaired by Peter Allen-as good as new, standing tall to this day.

In the spring of 2020 as lockdown began, we were ready to move from Becketwell to Green Lane. Everything stopped! No church, no activities but still, a church to move.

Therefore, at the beginning of July, our duty managers, Graham and Rob and Sarah, our cleaner, now a duty manager and I began the task of dismantling an empty building-getting quotes from Charles Hanson, auctioneer for the furniture in the church we weren't taking with us, the marble ladies needing to be removed in the chapel and what to do with the war memorials.

The rooms had to be emptied, removal firms had to be booked, decisions had to be made as to what we could or couldn't take, new furniture was ordered. The choir pews, the lectern, made of lovely mahogany were made into 43 crosses by Jim; searches were made far and wide for someone to take down our amazing stained glass to no avail; the council had to be persuaded to lift parking restrictions for 2 days.

The jobs just kept on coming and the date of early September got nearer and nearer. My purple notebook got fuller and fuller.

What a task to move from one to church to another-150 yards as the crow flies!

Today we worship in a very different building, the money from the sale of our older furniture having allowed us to buy modern furnishings in keeping with the new church.

However, many of the people remain the same having been joined by many new faces. One thing above all, remains the same. God is still present with us, and we worship him in so many ways.

Cathy Gould.

Thank you for all you do for the church .

Memories of Central

On my first visit to Becketwell Lane after the 3 churches joined together.

The 'Welcomer' on the ground floor was a gentleman.

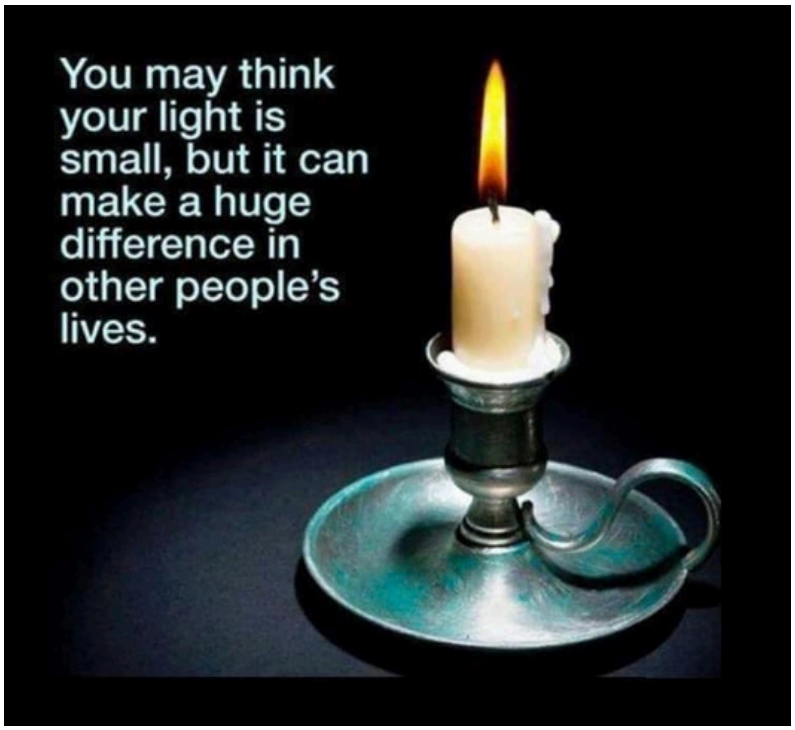
I just noticed the lift and immediately thought, "That's the way into the Church itself".

I was very sternly told: "YOU CAN USE THE STAIRS"!

So……I did as I was told!!!!!!

Ann Young

Needless to say, Ann is still at Central and is invited to use the lift whenever she wants! And we thank Ann for all she does not only with the magazine but also for the church in many ways.



This is Jubilee together
(To the tune Dim Ond Iesu -

This is Jubilee together
Here is Good News for the poor
Love united, love forever
Sharing hope of faith reborn
Let us fix our eyes on Jesus
May we learn to live the way
And rejoice in how grace feeds us
To reflect that love today

Love is here and shown in actions
With a spirit to transform
With a mission and a purpose
And an eager church reformed
Through our joys and through our sorrows
Let's discern how we can serve
Let us focus our tomorrows
To unite your world and church

Let us celebrate together
The diversity we bring
In our prayers and our compassion
And the joyful hymns we sing
Here are reasons to be thankful
Here is hope we've waited for
Here's the Gospel of redemption
And the grace of God outpoured

As we look towards the future
And remember all that's passed
Let's give thanks and trust in Jesus
For his love and mercy last
This is jubilee forever
There is Good News here for all
When we listen to God's message
And unite to meet God's call

Sam Goodman April 2022

We are blessed with these wonderful hymns. Thank you Sam.

When I first walked through the doors of Central United Reformed Church in 2023, I had no idea that I was walking into what would become one of the most important spiritual homes of my life.

I had come simply to hear the Reverend Paul Whiting preach. As I stepped through the doors, Paul introduced me to Jill and, almost immediately, announced: "This is Terry. He's a lay preacher, and I'm sure he'd be happy to help." Needless to say, by the end of that service I had already been booked for my first preaching engagement at Central!

It turned out to be a very good move. From the moment I arrived, I was overwhelmed by the welcome and love of the congregation. At the time, however, I was also facing a period of considerable uncertainty. I was a Church of England Churchwarden and Lay Reader at St Edmund's in Allenton and Shelton Lock, but the church was about to come under the oversight of Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB). As someone who was openly gay and married, I knew that this could create difficulties for my continued ministry there.

There was another concern too. I had founded Derby Inclusive Fellowship as a place where LGBTQ+ Christians could gather, worship and find community. If I could no longer continue in my Anglican setting, where would DIF meet?

Paul and I began looking at alternatives. We considered different venues, including the Arboretum and the Cathedral Café. But having experienced the welcome at Central, we wondered whether this might be the place where DIF could find a home. We approached the Elders and asked whether we could rent space for our monthly worship. The answer was yes!!

In June 2023, Derby Inclusive Fellowship held its first service at Central, a Pride celebration service. We had found not simply a convenient venue, but a Central, welcoming and affirming space in which our community could worship.

At first, we met in Room 1, a small and wonderfully cosy space. In 2024, as DIF grew, we moved into Room 2. It was there that one of my favourite Central memories was created – although I am sure it is not necessarily one that the fire alarm would choose to remember!

For a pre-Pride Communion service, we decided to use a rainbow candle prayer. Each colour of the rainbow had its own prayer, and as each prayer was spoken, another candle was lit. Coming from an Anglican background, I was rather fond of having plenty of candles around the worship space.

At the end of the service, we began to blow them out. There were quite a few of them – nine, if memory serves. Unfortunately, the smoke rose straight towards the fire alarm sensor.

Suddenly, the entire building was filled with the sound of the fire alarm!

Sam and I rushed around looking for the mysterious folder that, we hoped, would tell us how to reset the alarm. We soon discovered that neither of us had the slightest idea what we were doing. Fortunately, Sam had the brilliant idea of calling someone who did: Reverend Jim Gould.

Jim arrived and, with considerably more confidence than we possessed, managed to reset the alarms throughout the three-storey building and save us from the noise!

It is a memory that has stayed with me. In fact, in 2025 and 2026 we decided that perhaps ribbons were a safer way of representing the rainbow than candles! And every time I lay those ribbons on the communion table, I remember that day with great fondness — and gratitude for Jim!

In 2025, DIF moved again, this time from Room 2 into the sanctuary. It was a practical decision as much as a symbolic one. The sanctuary offered better audio-visual facilities, making worship more accessible for people with hearing and visual impairments, while wheelchair users could also access the worship space more easily. At the same time, DIF grew from one service a month to two, beginning with our post-Pride Communion service.

Looking back, that journey reminds me of something important about the Church: we change, we adapt and sometimes we have to find new ways of being together. Central itself knows something about that journey. From three churches becoming one, to moving from an old building into this present home, Central has changed considerably over the years. Yet here we are, still worshipping, still gathering and still serving our community.

Perhaps that is because, while our buildings and structures may change, God does not. God continues to meet us wherever we gather: around tables, in small rooms, in sanctuaries, online and in the relationships we build with one another.

The partnership between Central and Derby Inclusive Fellowship has grown stronger with each passing year. Paul and I continue to lead worship and preach at Central, while DIF continues to grow within the life of this wider community. As we look towards the future, I hope we can find even more opportunities to work together — through joint services, Bible studies, community events and other forms of shared ministry.

Central will always hold a special place in my heart. At a time when I was wondering where I belonged and grieving the loss of the Anglican ministry context that had shaped so much of my life, Central became a refuge. It gave me somewhere to worship, somewhere to serve, somewhere to grieve and, perhaps most importantly, somewhere to grow.

It has helped me grow into the person — and hopefully the minister — I am becoming.

As Central celebrates 50 years, Derby Inclusive Fellowship celebrates four years. Three of those years have been spent in partnership with one another. What began with a simple visit to hear Paul preach has become a relationship that I hope will continue for many years to come.

We may be two communities, but we are one body: joined together in love — love for God, love for one another and love for our community.

So, as Central celebrates 50 years, I want to say thank you. Thank you for opening your doors. Thank you for making space. Thank you for welcoming us. Thank you for allowing DIF to become part of your story.

And as we celebrate four years of Derby Inclusive Fellowship, we hope you will join us on 18th October as we share our joy and celebrate all that God has done among us.

Here's to another 50 years of Central — and, I hope, many more years of Derby Inclusive Fellowship as we continue this journey with you.

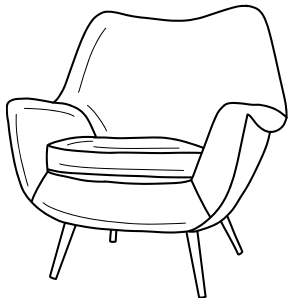
Terry Nash, Minister of Derby Inclusive Fellowship

And thank you, Terry, for the many ways you have enriched our fellowship.

CENTRAL SPOTLIGHT

1. How long have you been coming to Central?
2. What first brought you to Central?
3. Can you share a special memory of church?
4. What is your favourite hymn or worship song?
5. What is your favourite Bible verse?
6. Do you have a hobby or an interest?
7. What is your favourite book?
8. What's your favourite song (non-church)?
9. What is your favourite film or TV show?
10. If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?
11. What is your favourite food?
12. What's one thing that people might be surprised to know about you?
13. What's one thing you're passionate about?
14. Do you prefer Christmas or Easter, and why?
15. Anything else you want to tell us about yourself?

Want to answer these questions and appear next time
send in your answers to Christine



Christine Fielding

1. **1985**
2. Looking for a URC after my own in Adeyfield in Hemel Hempstead, Herts.
3. When I was asked to continue to be an Elder in 1986 in Central from Herts.
4. The Lord's My Shepherd (Stuart Townend)
5. Joshua 1. v 9
6. Gardening, community work , and reading.
7. I like a variety books especially from different countries , or variety of characters.
8. Jerusalem
9. The Repair Shop.
10. Visit to South Africa
11. Meringue nest with cream and fruit.
12. I lived in Germany and Belgium for 9 years in the 1960s as Deputy Headmistress travelling around European countries.
13. Passionate care of animals especially labrador dogs and donkeys.
14. Christmas as I love the colour and writing cards for friends.
15. I try to keep up with my various friends over the years and send cards, emails and phone calls.

COULD YOU ANSWER THE QUESTIONS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE? SEND ANSWERS TO TERRY OR CHRISTINE

Gift Day

Each year we invite the congregation to support the Church by donating to our Gift Day Appeal (This year we're having a Gift Aid month, as Gift Day falls during our Church's 50th Anniversary celebrations).

If you can make a financial gift to the church, then this would be most welcome. We appreciate all gifts from non-taxpayers and taxpayers alike. There is no commitment other than the amount you choose to put in the envelope.

If you are a taxpayer and wish to maximise the benefits of your giving in the Gift Day Envelope, please put your name and postcode on it (or free will offering number - you can ask Ann Young or me if you don't know it) and we will be able to claim an extra 25p in the £1 from the Government.

Please read the small print on the back of the yellow envelope before signing.

Any money which is not given as a set payment, be it weekly offering, flowers, or magazine, can all be gift-aided if you are a taxpayer, at no extra cost to you.

We appreciate your generosity, which enables the Church to keep going and supports outreach and mission work.

Thank you for all you do to support us as a church community.

Sam Goodman, Treasurer

Bank Details

SORT CODE: 40-19-15

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 91079883

HSBC ACCOUNT

Central United Reformed Church (Derby)

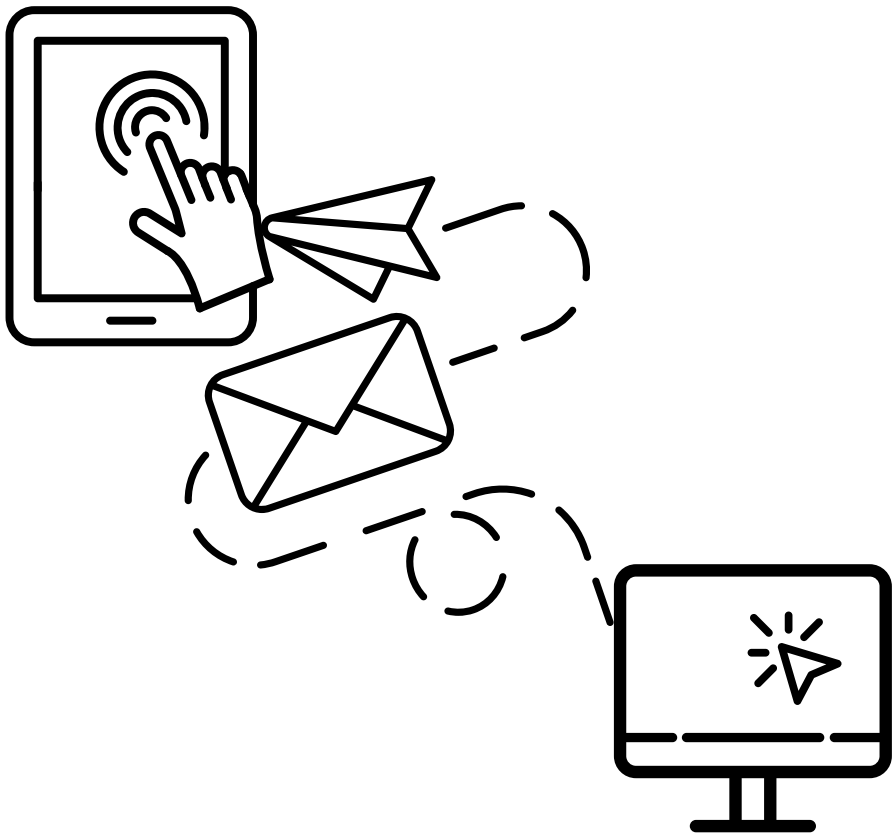
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The Church Magazine Team

Email: christinefielding706@gmail .com

Or mob: 07866 929376



KEEPING ALERT FOR SCAMS

Trading Standards are warning this month about "emergency situations" but they are not thinking of medical emergencies – but of water pouring through the ceiling or your keys being locked in the house while you are outside.

The immediate urgent need of help puts you in a vulnerable position, which can be exploited by unscrupulous people.

The second issue was investigated recently by BBC London, as you may have seen, and they came up with the very good advice that you should find the details of one or two reputable locksmiths in advance, when you are not in a hurry, and keep them in your wallet or on your phone, so that you can call on them when needed.

Similar advice applies in other situations, and they offer a list:

- **Trading Standards Checked**
- **Master Locksmiths Association www.locksmiths.co.uk**
- **WaterSafe – approved water contractors www.watersafe.org.uk**
- **Gas Safe Register www.gassaferegister.co.uk**
- **NICEIC – registered electricians www.niceic.com/find-a-tradesperson**
- **NAPIT – registered electricians www.napit.org.uk**

And for suspected gas leaks, the National Gas Emergency Service can be contacted on 0800 111 999.

If despite this, you find yourself suddenly in need without a backup, the advice is, however urgent things are, take a few moments to check the credentials, check the fees that will be charged (including the call-out fee) and be wary of over-cheap prices, especially if they appear at the top of the search results (if you go online to look).

Trading Standards are becoming aware that fraudsters are now able to imitate other people's voices on the phone, and may perhaps try to contact you simply to record a little bit of your voice from which they can extrapolate more. In doing this they are keen to record you saying "Yes" so please try to avoid using this word until you are quite sure who you are talking to!

Sue

Cinema at Central Presents...





On Saturday 14th November, *Cinema at Central* is presenting 'Sister Act' (1992).

Tickets are on sale for £5.

Doors open at 12pm, with the raffle draw at 12:45pm.

The film starts at 1pm.

No interval during the showing.

Raffle tickets and prizes will be available on the day (cash only). Tickets are £1 a strip!

Refreshments:

Popcorn will be available during the film.

Cake and nibbles will be available throughout the showing.

Soft drinks and hot drinks will be available throughout the showing.

You're welcome to bring your own bottle!

You are invited to dress up in bright colours or religious-themed outfits.

All proceeds are going to Derby Central's outreach and community projects.





Diary

SUNDAY WORSHIP

OCTOBER

4TH REV. DAVID DOWNING 50TH ANNIVERSARY (NO COMMUNION)
11TH CHURCH FAMILY
18TH MRS JANET PATMORE
25TH REV. PAUL WHITING

NOVEMBER

1ST FAMILY SERVICE COMMUNION
8TH MR. PHIL ROYLE
15TH MR.. SAM GOODMAN
22ND REV PAUL WHITING
29TH MR. TERRY NASH

CHURCH MEETING

November 15th

ELDERS' MEETINGS

October 8th
November 12th

EVENTS

50th Golden Anniversary of Central weekend of 3rd and 4th October October
Cinema afternoon at Central is Sister Act at 1pm on Saturday, November 14th
Quiz for Tear Fund Saturday, November 28th

Monday Fellowship:

October 12th & 26th
November 9th & 23rd

Craft Group (Crafty Fingers)

cancelled 2nd October

Derby Inclusive Fellowship

Saturday, 3rd October, we join Central URC for their 50th celebration weekend
Friday 9th October, Share & Prayer @7pm (online)
Sunday 18th October @2:30 (in-person and online) 4th Anniversary celerbration
Saturday 7th November @4pm (in-person)
Friday 13th November Share & Prayer @7pm (online)
Sunday 15th November @2:30 (in-person and online) Trans Day Of Rembrance service

CENTRAL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

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Website: www.derbycentralurc.net
Facebook: @derbycentralurc
Instagram: @derbycentralurc
Secretary: Mrs Christine Fielding 01332 514631
Treasurer: Mr Sam Goodman 07779 032979
Safeguarding Officers:
Mrs Maureen Hinchliffe 07582 294 464
Mr Terry Nash 07834997825 (Pastor of Derby Inclusive Fellowship)
Room bookings: Duty Managers 01332 346627 or via the website

A large print magazine is available on request.
Back Issues of our magazine are available on the website!
The December & January magazine will be available in late November.
Please send contributions (be creative) by Sunday, November 15th to Christine Fielding, care of the church, or by email to christinefielding706@gmail.com
Contributions to the weekly sheet should be sent to Cathy by email at cathy@cathyjim.co.uk or by phone at 07986450580
Deadline: Friday at noon, please!

Central United Reformed Church is the working name for Central, Derby, United Reformed Church Charity- Registration Number 1130551