

GoodNEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

JUNE 2008



Harry's Testimony

– finding God's light

PLUS...

- Harry McCleary reveals his testimony
- John Barling writes about the upcoming London to Brighton Bike Ride 2008
- GoodNEWS hears of your tales from down under

FREE
PLEASE HELP YOURSELF



Lindfield URC + Friends 2008 – Charlie with his 2006 medal, Simon, Sherrie, John, Janina and Angus – riding again in the London to Brighton for the British Heart Foundation on **15th June**.



Boris Johnson the new major of London causes a stir on page 28

Dear Friends...



Happiness is...

“Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness...” Sound good to you? The trouble is that the more I pursue happiness, the more it seems to run away from me! What is happiness anyway?

The pressure of life is tremendous. It's understandable that folk get stressed, but there are pressures that we bring on ourselves and trying to be happy is one of them. I'm not saying that happiness is a bad thing. I'm just saying that pursuing it is the wrong way to get it and one of the worst ways of making that mistake is to look for perfection. Billy Graham is credited with giving this advice – “If you find the perfect church, don't join it because you'll spoil it!” Wherever human beings are, there will be imperfection and that's true in every sphere and especially in our relationships with one another, whether in business, church or family life. So what do we do? Learn to live with imperfection? No. We just take a different route.

Have you ever noticed how, when you've finished a job, whether it's mowing the lawn, doing the ironing or writing an essay, you feel better when it's done? Looking out on a weed-free flower border, you might almost feel happy, because happiness is like a little imp which runs away from you when you chase it, but comes and tugs at your sleeve if you look for something better. It's odd how sometimes giving a gift brings more satisfaction than receiving one. Why should that be? I think it's because God originally designed us to love each other, but sin got in the way and spoiled things, so that now, naturally, we love ourselves instead. It's only when we do things His way that we experience real happiness.

Christians aren't perfect, but we try to love one another genuinely. We make mistakes, because of that in-built imperfection I mentioned earlier, but that doesn't matter because we trust and follow someone who is perfect – Jesus Christ – and we believe that trusting and following Him is the way to true happiness. Why not come and join us and find out for yourself?

Charles Martin, minister

GoodNEWS

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Editorial



The main feature this month has been written by Harry McCleery. It is a very honest telling of his own story. It illustrates clearly that God does not let go of us even if we let go of him.

Fo Tingley, Brian Tuppen and the Derhams relate their various adventures and highlights of their visits down under. Maybe for the first time we have a dog writing in the magazine; thank you to the Tijous for penning an account of the Day in the Life of Lucy the PAT Dog.

There are the usual reminders as well as adverts for upcoming events. So there is, hopefully, something for everyone.

Val

GoodNEWS Online

Don't forget that you can view this and past editions of GoodNEWS at the Lindfield URC website:

www.lindfieldurc.org.uk



During June, please include the following in your personal prayers:-

Burma and the thousands there affected by the disaster – the loss of loved ones, their homes, possessions, work. Danger from disease and hunger. Pray that supplies will be allowed to get through to where they are needed, and for the relief agencies in all their efforts to help. Also remember the Government of that remote country.

Bereaved Families We have a number of folk who have lost family members in the past few months. Pray that they will find God's comfort and peace, and that His love will strengthen them to face the future.

Local Government Elections Pray for those re-elected or newly elected to office, especially for Christians amongst them, that they will have the courage to use their Christian influence for the good of the community. Remember too, all who are in any kind of public office, that they will serve with integrity and diligence.

Interserve, our Mission focus this month. (see page 10 for details)

Prayer Matters...

It is so encouraging to hear that there will be a number of new **Prayer Triplets and Partnerships** within our Church family. If you are still thinking about it, please step out of your comfort zone and 'go for it'; it will be well worth it!

There seems to be some confusion as to the purpose of our new **Prayer Board** in the Concourse. So here is another go at trying to explain its purpose, which I trust will clarify the situation. It is good to see that it is already being used, both for requests and answers. The Prayer Board is available for everyone to use, including folk from the village, and it is for everyday prayers (rather than life-threatening situations that are in the Concourse Prayer Book). You may include your name if you wish, but if the prayer is for someone else, please obtain his or her permission before including their name. The idea is that we should all check the board regularly and remember in our personal prayers the requests displayed there. Those praying on the Concourse will also include the items on the Prayer Board. Please use this new facility. It is such an opportunity to share needs and to feel the support, knowing that your friends from the church are upholding you in prayer.

Harry McC

Six months ago I went to a seminar entitled, 'Sharing Our Faith', lead by evangelist, John Goodway. One idea he shared was that of writing on a credit card the testimony of how Christ had transformed our lives. It wasn't a wheeze to get cheaper shopping at Tesco. It was to encourage us to think about how we express to non-christians the love and hope we now have, compared to the places in our lives where we've been. I thought 'that's a great idea'- that was six months ago- and so far it has remained a 'great idea.' When I was asked to write this article, therefore, I was delighted that I wasn't given any longer than a month to think about it. It is a wonderful gift to have a story. It is a wonderful gift to share that story in the hope that someone somewhere will feel the touch of a God who cares.

I was brought up in a tenement in Glasgow in the 1960s. The first record I bought was Lulu singing 'Shout' for 50p. A local hero. We had a kitchen, bedroom, and sitting room. My brother and I shared a fold out bed from the sofa in the living room until I was 12 and he was 16. I used to listen to his stories in bed of secondary school and help solve his bigger issues about girls etc. My dad worked for British Rail – as did my uncles and my granddad- so we always went on holiday where there was a railway station- Skegness, Blackpool, and Weymouth. We went camping in the Scottish Highlands a lot- 10p a night -for five people. The only facility was a cold water tap. It's still there. I saw it last year. The campsite is now closed. I can remember watching the fishing boats, gliding between the islands, from Oban on a Sunday at midnight in a bright, summer, sun-fired, highland sky, because none of the boats would leave on the Sabbath day.

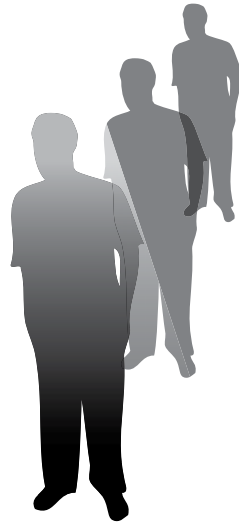
My parents were Christians so we went to Sunday school and attended church twice a day for as long as I can remember. We were

not allowed to watch television on a Sunday; not allowed to go out and play football. Shopping was for six days of the week only. On a Saturday Batman was on television. It concluded on Sunday. All through my childhood I never knew how the cliff-hanger on Saturday finished on Sunday. We never drank alcohol. Not drinking alcohol in Glasgow is a bit like not liking lifeboats on the Titanic. It is a social institution. This pretty much left us ostracized from family parties etc.- especially at Christmas and New Year.

My brother left Glasgow for London when he was 21 with a girlfriend to set up home together. He had been drinking since he was 17 and seemed resolved to starting a new life, which at the time, to me, appeared great- out with the old lifestyle; he was moving on to a bright new future. After a few years, the tedium of domesticity took its toll and he found more pleasure in his old habits. His

girlfriend found a new lover and my brother found a new freedom to explore his best bottled friend. After many years of alcoholics anonymous and months of hospitalised detoxification, my brother told me that he hadn't sunk low enough to give up alcohol. I believe it to be a belief, at the time, that an alcoholic had to reach their lowest point before recovery could take place. This from a man who had walked up the tube train tunnel to find the train. A man who had been arrested lying in a gutter. I struggle with the concept. When satan has taken charge of the controls- look out- satan doesn't have a lowest point!

When he was 28, I found my brother, a bottle of vodka in one hand, cigarettes by his side- dead. His heart had given out. The truth is his heart for living had given up long before. He



Feature - Harry McCleery's Story

was consumed by a disease that he had long lost control of. I can remember him telling me in a pub once that he could still remember the God of his youth and that he still thought of those things. Isaiah 55 verse 6 reads: 'Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near'.

I also left Glasgow for London when I was 21, having dropped out of university. I couldn't find a job during the recession of the early 1980's. To be honest, I looked forward to being in a place where I could express myself more freely, as I had always tried to toe the family line, although I was stifled. I had a job in the Law Courts. I played football on a Sunday. Ran marathons. Looked forward to Friday nights when I could get plastered and generally regained my brain cells about five o'clock on a Saturday. I spent a lot of time pumping iron to fill in the gaps of the rest of my life. I had two very close friends - one in the Special Forces and one that I just liked drinking with.

I met my first wife when I was 31. She was 19. She had all the physical attributes I desired in a wife. She was also a Muslim. After five years, we

amicably agreed with her parents that I would convert to Islam and we would get married. I went to Regents Park Mosque and I met a group of British Nationals who were studying Islam with the intention of converting. I repeated something in Arabic, knowing that the people there knew I was a fake. I then went to meet the Imam and he kept telling me that this had nothing to do with Jesus being the Son of God. Then I repeated something else in Arabic. I felt the weight of selling my birthright for an ice cream as I walked around Regents Park with my new family.

Looking back, I believe my marriage lasted a year before my wife had found a new object of desire. I was studying Pharmacy by then. My wife was staying away most weekends. When she was at home, I suffered the verbal lashes of a woman consumed by guilt. It was a relief that she was never at home as her presence had become insufferable. I felt like a battered dog.

At 10.30 on 31st December 1999 my father died; on 21st April 2000 my wife left - I can still see her at the door with her case. In May 2000 a very

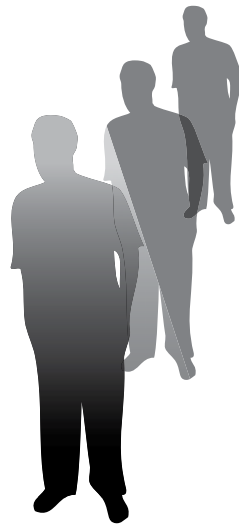
dear cousin died very tragically and suddenly. I can remember crying my eye out at her funeral. I was living in Hell and I could touch the flames.

When Jesus died on the cross He was saying 'It's not the end'. 'When God looked down on my life He said 'It's not the end'. Jeremiah 29 verse 11 reads 'For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.' Everyday when God looks down on your life He says 'It's not the end'.

I married my second wife, Rosemary, in 2005. I honoured God by seeking his direction and obeying His laws in my marriage this time. I think, through Rosemary, God is teaching me, for the first time, how to love. Rosemary's first husband had died of cancer, leaving two children, Peter and Lydia. Esther Grace, our daughter, was born in January 2007. Having children has, for me, brought to life the father heart of God. As God looks down on our lives; as He watches us sleep; having put to rest the toils of the day. He is compelled to love us. I love to bits my father in heaven on good days. I can't live without my father in heaven on bad days. I've spent years of my life worrying about whether I've locked doors; turned off cookers and taps. A life tied together with the shoestrings of possibilities of getting it wrong. Only in Christ can we ever hope to live freely. In surrender and trust we can hand over control of our lives to the creator of the universe-a God who watches over our every care.

For the last couple of years I have always had a verse that I've learned over a number of weeks/months. As you repeat scripture, line by line, the depth and power of the words surround you and embody your life. Verses I've been given are: Philippians 4 verse 8: 'Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think on these things' – for protection, for purity of mind.

Psalms 139 verses 23/24: 'Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my anxious thoughts: see if there is any



Feature - Harry McCleery's Story

transgression in me, and lead me in the way everlasting'. Having been washed in the blood of the lamb, Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. I believe we have to examine ourselves to be free to grow in Christ.

2 Chronicles 7 verse 14: '...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land'. Read and absorb every word.

A few months ago my family and I were sitting on the beach in Brighton. There was an old blanket lying nearby. It was a cold winter's day and the stones were like lumps of ice. After 20 minutes the old blanket started to move; after 5 more minutes two bare feet appeared. A few minutes later a load of unkempt hair stuck out of the blanket. My wife, who was praying for me, took the children away as I went to speak to the lost soul freezing on the beach. The man's feet were ice blue. I told him I was a Christian and offered him my socks and boots- but he refused. He told me he was OK and refused all offers of assistance. I gave him the details of a local Christian homeless charity-'Off The Fence'-and pleaded with him to get in touch. As I looked into the man's eyes and peered into his forgotten soul I have never felt more, from deep within me, the profound outpouring of Christ's love. Christ's heart bleeding for pains of the unredeemed.

Whatever you make of my story, there is one thing in the past that can't be denied. As I lay in my bed one morning, I opened my heart to Christ. I said to Him 'Lord I'm tired of the struggle. Come and take control'. From that moment the spirit of God came to me and my life has never been the same. Whatever else you may think, no-one can deny the love of God, through Christ, I have in my heart.

If you ever come round my house and it's tidy with the lawn neatly mown, please give me a handful of tracts and send me out in the High Street to share the love of God to the people in need. May God Bless You with his peace and love.

Harry McCleery

**We're all going
ON A
Summer
HOLY DAY
Sunday July 6th**

**All ages are invited to join in our
BIG summer day out at Great Walstead**

10:30am Family Service

12:30pm BBQ Lunch and Activities

4:00pm Family Songs of Praise

Inflatables, Games & Swimming

Be there or be square

June Mission Giving



A Special Weekend including a Missions Supper

Over the weekend of 21st/22nd June we welcome the return visit after many years of Richard and Janice Clark of Interserve, together with Dave Taylor, the Mission's local representative for the South East. On the Saturday evening at the church Dave will be hosting our Missions Supper, giving us an update on the current work, the needs and opportunities for Christian service, with input from the Clarks. Tickets will be available from Ron Goodenough, John Barling and Fiona Flett.

Richard is the outgoing National Director of Interserve, a cross-cultural mission called to serve the peoples of Asia and the Arab world in spiritual or material need, including those who live here in the United Kingdom, and will be speaking at both Sunday morning services. Both he and Janice have served God both at home and overseas, starting in Nepal in the early 1970s. He will be returning hotfoot to the UK from recent visits to the Far and Middle East, so the news he will bring will be an up-to-date insight into the ways God is working in peoples' lives in those areas.

Interserve's quarterly magazine, 'Go', features a special series of articles on Islam, including a Muslim wedding, cross-cultural witness in Australia, Christian-Muslim dialogue, personal accounts of

how the Holy Spirit is working in Muslim lives, a challenging piece from Brother Andrew and an account of witnessing to the Uygurs of NW China. Copies of 'Go' (see opposite page) will be available on the Missions display in the church concourse.

A weekend not to be missed, especially if you are considering how you might serve God in the future, either at home or overseas, by either praying, supporting or going. Opportunities for teachers, doctors, therapists and those with media management and business experience to serve currently exist through Interserve's network of Partners.

For more information go to www.interserve.org or visit the Missions display.

John Barling, Missions Group
T: 01444 482415
M: 07968 125 150

Second Quarter 2008

Go

Special Focus

Islam


How should we respond?

A Common Word

Colin Chapman on Christian-Muslim dialogue

A Muslim wedding

Waiting for the bridegroom

The quarterly magazine of  **INTERSERVE**

Lives and communities transformed through encounter with Jesus Christ

Family news

Our Minister

It is right that we respect our Minister's day off which is a Monday. In an emergency, please contact one of the Church Secretaries or a member of the Pastoral Group.

If you would like to see Charles you can do so by appointment, or he will be available at the Church on Wednesday mornings after Intercessions.

Bereavements

We extend our love and deepest sympathy to **Adrian and Val Cookney, Andrew and Katie**, following the sudden death of Adrian's younger brother, **Richard**.

Also, we offer our condolences to **Mel Campling and David Goodchild** and their respective families following the death recently of Grandparents.

Please support these families with your love and prayers.

Congratulations...

...to **Hilary Wren**, who was married to **Christopher Rivers** on **Saturday 10th May** at The Vine Church, Odiham, Hampshire, where they are both members.

Chris and Hilary's address is: 35, Birch Grove, Hook, Hampshire RG27 9RJ (tel. 01256 760856)

Philip and Leonie Wren would like to thank all those who have prayed for Hilary and helped to nurture her in her walk with the Lord during her younger years at Lindfield URC.

Thank You

Sue and Dennis Waller would like to say a BIG thank you to you all for your tremendous support over the last twelve months. God has been gracious and we give thanks for that.

I am optimistic of returning to work in June- for part of the time at least. Please bear with me if I am not around at present as much as I would like. Thank you all again.

Stuart and Carol Marsh and family would like to thank everyone who sent us cards, prayers and good wishes following the sad loss of Carol' mother, Kath Elcome. We were overwhelmed by your love, care and practical help at this difficult time. We are comforted by the fact that Kath is now at peace and with the Lord.

Adrian and Val Cookney and family would like to say thank you for the concern and love that has been given to them following the death of Richard, Adrian's brother.

Thank you to Pamela Boyling who has so faithfully and diligently delivered Bible Reading Notes and magazines for many years. Now that the Christian Bookshop is closing this is no longer possible. We will miss Pamela's cheery face, not to mention her great service.

Thank you, "La". Norna Derham

Free TV!

Dorothy Harvie (who is now living in Compton House) has a 14" colour television which she no longer requires and she would like to give away. Please phone her on 487203 if you are interested.

Unsung Heroes

From time to time in Good News we like to feature one of our “unsung heroes” - one of those good people who work quietly away behind the scenes doing vital work for our church with very little credit. One such is Audrey Saunders who, while performing many other duties, is responsible for keeping the courtyard garden looking so neat and pretty and we thank her for that.

Another very important task that Audrey performs is to organise the re-cycling of the large amount of waste that accumulates on our premises. Audrey feels that we must all do whatever we can to preserve this wonderful world that the Lord has entrusted to us, and she feels that this is one small way in which she can help.

Audrey quoted a Bible verse that means a great deal to her:

“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it” Psalm 24 v1.

In Touch

Tuesday, 24th June at 7.45pm

Due to a mix-up of dates we have postponed Joan Bailey’s talk until our June meeting. The title of the evening is “An Aspect of Healing”.

We would be very glad to see a few young ladies to bring our average age down! The group is for ANY ladies, ANY age. See you there.

The Fellowship

Our Meeting in June is on Wednesday 25th at 2.45pm. We are to have a Social time together with a Garden Tea. We hope that the sun will shine for us but whatever the weather there will be a warm welcome to all.

There will be our usual Bring and Buy Stall.

Tell everyone about it!

If you run a club or group in the local community that you would like to talk more about, submit an article/information to the editor – it would be great to see more of what is going on in/around the village. **Contact details on page 2.**

June church diary

1st

Sunday 9.30am David Jones
– Communion
11.00am David Jones
6.30pm David Goodchild

5th

Thursday House Groups

7th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
–9.30am at All Saints

8th

Sunday 9.30am Charles Martin
11.00am Charles Martin
6.30pm Charles Martin
– Communion in
the Round

11th

Wednesday 12.30pm Lunch Fellowship

12th

Thursday 8.00pm Church Meeting

13th

Friday 12.30pm Lunch Fellowship

14th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
–9.30am at All Saints

15th

Sunday 9.30am Family Service
David Walters
11.00am David Walters
6.30pm HHDEF at Clair Hall

19th

Thursday House Groups

21st

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
–9.30am at All Saints
7.30pm Missions Supper

22nd

Sunday 9.30am Richard Clark
– Interserve
11.00am Richard Clark
– Interserve
Communion
6.30pm Charles Martin

24th

Tuesday 7.45pm In Touch

25th

Wednesday 2.45pm Afternoon
Fellowship
7.30 pm Elders

26th

Thursday 8.00pm Church Prayer
Meeting

28th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
–9.30am at All Saints

29th

Sunday 9.30am TBA Please
11.00am TBA see
6.30pm TBA notices

OTHER LOCAL EVENTS LISTED ON BACK COVER

Balcombe United Reformed Church



Bramble Hill, Balcombe, RH17 6HR.

Contact: Mrs Leonie Wren (01444 811253)

Our services are held weekly at 10.30am.
Visitors are always welcome to join us.

Speakers for this month are as follows:-

June 1st	No Service
June 8th	Philip Wren
June 15th	Charles Martin – COMMUNION SERVICE
June 22nd	Dan McQuillin
June 29th	Philip Wren

FlowerRota



	Arranging	Distributing
June		
1	Serena Nathan	Sue Tester
8	Zoe McQuillin	Jacqueline Wood
15	Wedding Flowers	Barbara Shepherd
22	Gladys Porter	Lesley Sparks
29	Audrey Saunders	Margaret Gomme

July		
6	Winifrid Scopes	Kay Phillpot
13	Heather Swann	Jo Bloxham
20	Janet Wade	Iris Bingham
27	Fiona Tingley	Heather Swann

Sunday services explained...

The **9.30am service** is an opportunity for all age groups to join in a relaxed informal time. There is a crèche, and after about 20 minutes children and young people up to age 14 go out to their own groups on most Sundays.

Coffee is normally served between the morning services and after the evening one.

The **11.00am service** is usually more set and formal.

At **6.30pm** it is sometimes a celebration, sometimes a quieter ministry time and sometimes an open communion service or something quite different!

Personal prayer is available after every service. Prayer requests and brief statements of praise for answered prayer can be put in the red book on the concourse table. We can also offer personal prayer ministry at home or in hospital.

We **do not take up an offering** during the services, but all those wishing to give are invited to place a gift in one of the bowls at the doors before or after the service. Thank you.

Cassette **recordings of services** can be borrowed free from the church.

1) Evangelical Alliance and Care concourse notice board



Next time you are having a cup of tea or coffee between the Sunday services, why not take your drink into the concourse and have a browse of the Evangelical Alliance (EA) and CARE notice board there, maintained by Carol Walters.

It is full of interesting articles on contemporary issues, with pamphlets and other material that you can take away for further reading, including the Evangelical Alliance journal, Idea (please return this after reading). One of the stories on the board in May concerned Joel Edwards, the General Director of EA for the last decade, who is due to retire in September 2008. During his time with EA he was fundamental to the formation the Micah Challenge, a movement that calls on governments to halve global poverty, and he will be continuing his involvement with the movement after his retirement from EA. Other stories concerned God in a secular state and God in business.

If your interest is really aroused there are membership forms on the board, a means to join with one million other Evangelical Christians in representing Christianity in our society.

The CARE (Christian Action, Research, Education) board also had stories of topicality, including the human fertilisation and embryology bill being debated in Parliament. It also has a concise prayer guide with suggestions for topics to pray for on a weekly basis. To give you a taster of the range, those for the five weeks starting in June are: “Ethics and Faith”, “Fragile World”, “Leadership”, “Justice and Mercy” and “National Health Service”. Both EA and CARE can help us as Christians to live in today’s complex and confusing world – so, check out the latest information on the concourse board.

www.eauk.org

www.care.org.uk

2) How clean are you?

Clean: An Unsanitised History of Washing by Katherine Ashenburg (Profile Books) is a recently published and very readable account of our bathing habits, from Roman times to the present.

In Roman times, apparently, both rich and poor bathed daily, in mixed-sex bath houses. Rather than using soap the bathers preferred to rub oil over their bodies and then scrape it off with a blade. The oil scraped off the bodies of famous gladiators,

combined with their sweat and dirt, was sold to female fans and used as face cream! Any chance of that fashion making a comeback in modern times, perhaps with our favoured rugby players providing a heady mix of oil, perspiration and Twickenham mud? Early Christians were strongly opposed to Roman cleanliness, associating the baths with hedonism and general hanky-panky. In fact St Jerome, an early Bible translator/ reviser who died in Bethlehem in 420 AD, declared that “a clean body and a clean dress mean an unclean soul”! He believed that “he who has bathed in Christ has no need of a second bath”. Another Holy man, St Godric of Finchale, born in Norfolk in 1065, travelled all the way from England to Jerusalem without once washing or changing his clothes! The Middle Ages must have been a very smelly time to be a churchgoer. In fact during the Inquisition a damning piece of evidence levelled against Moors and Jews was that they were “known to bathe”. Rather than bathe, the English upper classes simply changed into fresh linen underclothes to absorb bodily secretions. Elizabeth I was unusual for bathing once a month, as she said, “whether I need it or not”. Her successor, James I, was not quite so fastidious, reportedly washing only his fingers – I suppose better than licking them! It was only during the Industrial Revolution that the concept of the all-over wash began to make a re-appearance in England, but along class lines so that William Thackeray came up with the phrase, “the great unwashed” for the vast number of poor who didn’t regularly come face to face with water. In an attempt to encourage washing among the poor, John Wesley declared that “cleanliness is next to Godliness”, a complete reversal of St Jerome’s advice! Nowadays in England we all have access to baths and showers, so there is little excuse for not keeping clean; but which are you – a follower of St Jerome or John Wesley?!

Source: (Adapted from “Review of reviews: Books” in The Week, 5/4/2008)

3) What do you want from the Church?

Isabella Rossellini, a daughter of Ingrid Bergman and the director Roberto Rossellini, is an eccentric film director who has just released a series of short, cartoon-like films about the sex lives of insects, which fascinated her ever since reading up on the aphids that were attacking her roses. When asked, ‘what was the eco-message behind her films’, she replied:-

“Oops, that’s a profound question. It reminds me: I go to yoga classes in a church and one day there was a poster asking, ‘What do you want from the church?’ I wrote down: ‘More yoga classes’. Then I found my reading glasses and went back to see what other people had written and I saw things like ‘Redemption’! There is no grand message from my films – all I want people to take away from them is a laugh. Just one laugh.”

Rossellini is refreshingly honest, if a shade misguided about what to expect from her local church.

Source: (Adapted from “People” in The Week, 26/4/2008)

It's a dog's life

Hello! My name is Lucy and I'm a Blue Roan Cocker Spaniel aged 7 years and a bit! I was born in a block of Council flats, two floors up right beside Stockwell Underground Station in South London. Ray & Rosemary Tijou came to see me when I was three days old and the breeder was taking me the next day to get my tail docked at the vet's. They said no and wanted it left on. It's still on and is always wagging! I believe there's a law against docking of tails now, thank God! For the first six weeks of my life I lived in Stockwell with the breeder and his wife and my mum and dad – April and Bertie and my two brothers in the litter! Then I went to live in Tooting with Ray and Rosemary. It was there I grew up.

When I was six months old Ray and Rosemary took me to Obedience Classes. I passed my six week obedience course and went on to learn all sorts of things connected with obedience, and managed to gain some certificates and rosettes.

I took on board most of what I was taught, but right from the start made up my mind when it came to retrieving and fetching a toy that I wouldn't 'give' when asked to, and I just treat it as a game, which of course makes anyone watching laugh. Whilst at the Classes I was attacked by one of my fellow classmates one evening, a Husky Dog. He suddenly turned in his tracks and bit me. I managed to run under the pool table where he couldn't reach me! Fortunately it was only a few teeth marks but he managed to draw blood.

Ray and Rosemary wanted me to be a Pets As Therapy visiting dog and so at 18 months old I was tested to see if I was suitable. The lady dropped a lump of wood behind me to see if I would jump out of my skin! I didn't even bat an eyelid. The reason for that was because in residential homes you get sudden noises like a walking stick being dropped and they wanted to see my reaction!

I do shift work – one week working and one week off. I proudly wear my fluorescent yellow jacket bearing the Pets As



Therapy logo. (On one occasion we were passing a building site near Compton House in Lindfield and a builder came out wearing a similar fluorescent jacket. He said I could go and work on his building site in my yellow jacket!) On alternate Tuesdays I visit at St. Peter & St. James' Hospice and take half my breakfast with me (dried food) so that the patients can feed me. I daintily eat it from their hands! Ray and Rosemary remind the people to wash their hands afterwards in the interests of health and safety!!

I start off in the Day Care Centre and like to say hello to everyone in turn, to old friends as well as new friends. I never leave anybody out. After that I visit round the wards and say hello to as many patients as possible. They seem to like to see me.

On alternate Thursdays I visit at Compton House Nursing Home and feel it is a great privilege to be stroked by centenarians as well as others. Again, I take some of my breakfast with me, and in some instances I hop up into the chair

and sit with the person or even on their lap! I know those who really love dogs!

I understand that it is very therapeutic for a person to stroke an animal and it brings a lot of pleasure to those who are in care homes who have had pets in the past just to stroke me. I hear a lot from the people I visit about themselves but mum's the word!

All sorts of dogs (and even cats!?) visit and we go to all sorts of places – hospitals, day centres, residential homes and even to prisons. Some people with phobias are even helped by stroking a dog.

I'm not a mind reader but recently I was visiting. We reached the room of a good friend of mine and the door was closed. Normally I would pull to go in and sniff under the door first, but I knew the person wasn't there. A cleaner told us they had passed away two days before.

In between my visiting I live a normal dog's life. I enjoy a walk each day (but not when it's raining as it spoils my hairdo), or

A canine perspective

just lazing in the garden in the sunshine. I also enjoy a game of ball and have several in my toy box plus a football in the cupboard. One thing that sends my blood pressure up is the postman making his daily visit and dropping stuff through my letterbox. I recognise them with their red bicycles and orange

fluorescent jackets a mile off, and always give them a bark when out walking or riding in the car!

I enjoy my days and hope I will be able to visit for a long time yet.



Sunday Morning Singers

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be “What is hell?”

Come early and listen to our choir practice

As I said to Stuart Dew the old ones are the best. However, I hope that is not the case with the Sunday Morning Singers. We have lots of humorous interludes and some wrong notes at our irregular practices.

The Singers have evolved from an ad hoc Christmas choir to one which is willing and able to assist the Sunday worship with song.

We are a happy band of brothers and sisters, some who sing regularly in choirs, others of us who do not, but we have a common aim to enjoy ourselves and to sing to the honour and glory of God and not the leader.

We have a varied repertoire including the songs of Moody and Sankey, beautiful devotional worship songs, four part hymns and the occasional anthem.

I have been involved with church music of some sort or other almost all my life and always believed that “only the best is good enough for the Lord”. However, sometimes that maxim results in performance rather than praise.

Our aim is to praise the Lord to the best of our ability and if there are those in the congregations who wish to share in this ministry (no audition required) then give me a call and come and join us. My name is Peter Swann on 01444 450335.

Christmas Concert 18th December 2008. Get practising now.

Adventures down under

AUSTRALIA,
APPREHENSION,
ADVENTURE,



AMAZING,
AWESOME,
APPRECIATION!

When Clare first invited me to accompany her and the girls to Australia I was very apprehensive at the thought. However, it was not only a chance to visit Iris and Bill Green (Church members here until they emigrated in 2006), but also to see my cousins in Queensland. It was an opportunity too good to miss! I was about to embark upon the biggest adventure of my life!

Of course my time in Perth with Bill and Iris was delightful, enjoying with them some of the beauty spots of WA. What a joy to see my cousins and to meet younger members of the family whom I'd not met before! Also, looking back at old family photos and reminiscing about the past was another bonus. But perhaps the best was yet to come.

One of my cousins joined me in a whirlwind sightseeing tour of some of Australia's natural wonders. It was an amazing experience to snorkel on the Barrier Reef amongst the beautiful corals and colourful fish, to drive through part of the oldest still living Rainforest in the world, see crocodiles in the wild during a cruise on the Daintree River, to wonder at Koala

Bears, Kangaroos, Sharks and Turtles (to name but a few). A cable-car trip over another rainforest near Cairns was also breathtaking. From North Queensland we flew to central Australia. Here we enjoyed a "Sounds of Silence" Dinner out in the Desert, with the vast heavens all around us with the millions of stars – almost blowing our minds at the wonder of God's creation. To experience sunrise at Ayres Rock is just awesome, as was a helicopter flight over Kings Canyon! The vastness of the whole country is quite inconceivable!

This whole experience of seeing Australia just felt like an enormous privilege to me. I was so conscious of peoples' prayers, and I know that they helped me so much; God gave me the courage to do something I'd never ever thought I could do. My appreciation to Him is beyond words, not to mention my thanks to Clare, Emma and Rachel whose company and support were just great!

Fiona Tingley

NZ Reunion

I recently went to New Zealand, for the first time, with my brother. We wanted to reunite with our cousin, Beryl, who we had last seen at our Seaford flat in 1952. (below) She is special because



her mother was one of our mother's sisters and her father was one of our father's brothers.

We arrived in the beautiful city of Auckland and during our stay drove up the Northlands to enjoy the scenic Bay of Islands and Waitangi Treaty Grounds. We also toured the spectacular Coromandel Peninsula before heading southwards. For a break we stayed near the dramatic Huka Falls, on the Waikato River which feeds the vast Lake Taupo in the centre of the North Island. From there we crossed the desert road, past majestic snow-capped

volcanoes, towards the Kapiti Coast, North West of Wellington.

Cousin Beryl has retired from administrative work for the Presbyterian Church and lives in the Raumati Beach district. Seeing her again was a real treat and we had a happy time visiting local sights (right).

Wellington has an impressive cultural museum called Te Pap (our place)

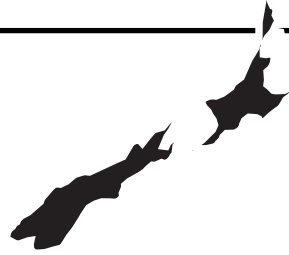


which is designed to withstand earthquakes and the impact of numerous visitors. After exchanging farewells, we drove back up to Auckland stopping off to stay at the Art Deco city of Napier.

New Zealand is a land of many natural resources which are exploited with due regard to the environment. The landscape is varied and largely unspoilt, with good roads making driving pleasant. "Kiwis" are unpretentious, friendly and courteous. They have much to be proud of in their country, God bless them.

Brian Tuppen

An Experience



Round the world in the Reightieth year! After a bewildering wait at Heathrow, eventually boarding the New Zealand plane and off. A fantastic sunset over Greenland, the snow capped Rockies and fairyland night lights of L.A., where there was a two hour stop for refurbishment. Then on into the night and after 26 hours travel a great reunion at Auckland with our son.

Drive south through dry, brown fields (there was a drought and farmers were desperate for rain) until we reached the lushness and grandeur of Karangahake Gorge, with the Owharea Falls. The Palm avenue approach to WAIHI where the vast Martha open mine is worked for silver and gold. Another great welcome from the rest of the family in their new spacious-character filled home with a garden of many levels and gradients and a self-contained "sleep out" (annex in the U.K.). There were trips around the Misty, then to Whangamata up the coast involving an incredible "S" bends journey with a steep gorge down on one side. We went shopping in huge warehouses in Tauranga, watched cricket – N.Z vs. England at Hamilton (N.Z. won!). There was the skirl of pipes and

drums at the Highland Games in Paeroa and hot (natural) pool fun and ices at Athenree.

We met up with friends and cousins, with reminiscing, memories and then the delight of Waihi beach, ten minutes away, where the family revelled on their surf boards, and Coco the dog chased the gulls and mini-waves. A Day trip to Rotrua, with the geysers, mud holes, furtive kiwis and incredible Maori carvings and their Te Puia with music, song and action, intensely absorbing – fish and chips, musical loos, bare feet, extreme casualness, friendly, helpful folk. Fantastic "Milky Way" with Orion and the plough so clear, golden full moon, rich rainbows, battering rain, blue skies and hot sun. Such a plethora of memories – absorbing fully the family's new life until sadly the last wave from the tip of the airport escalator and the long haul home. Then there were queues, food, cramp, refurbishing at Hong Kong as the dawn broke. The sight of the Himalayan magnificence, vast desert areas of Mongolia. The endless corridors at Heathrow airport, relief at seeing Tony and finally the M25 and home – an Experience.

Norna Derham



Church
Weekend
Away

21st-23rd
NOVEMBER

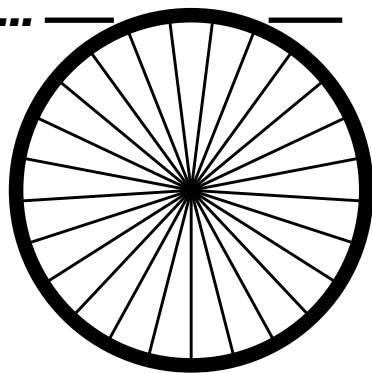
We are thrilled that bookings have gone so well that we have had to put up the “**House Full**” sign. Our total numbers are now 114, including children and the children’s team, plus several who have booked as day visitors. Charles and Jenny Martin have signed up and will be taking an active part in the Weekend. The committee is working on details of the programme, in consultation with our speaker, Rev Alex Jacob. Meanwhile...

- Late bookings are still being accepted – please complete a booking form at the stewards’ desk. You will be booked in as a day visitor and placed on a waiting list for accommodation
- Please pray for the committee, for Alex Jacob, for all who will be involved in leading worship for adults and caring for children. We want this to be an event which glorifies Jesus and builds us up as a church.
- Please continue to give. Remember this is a faith venture – the only compulsory payment is the £10 per adult deposit. Beyond that, we want you to give according to your ability and as the Lord moves you. Supplies of Celebr8 envelopes are with the stewards, and may be placed in the offertory on any Sunday.

Mike Gardiner

Beating heart disease together...

The 2008 L2B Bike Ride



On Sunday 15th June don't forget to allow a few more minutes to cross the High Street because around 27,000 cyclists will be passing through the village once again en route from Clapham Common to Madeira Drive on the Brighton seafront. Covering 54 miles through the picturesque lanes and villages of Surrey and Sussex the riders in the largest and longest peloton in Europe, coming in all shapes and sizes, from teenagers to the well and truly retired, some in conventional cyclo garb and others in outlandish costumes, aim to raise over £4 million for the work of the British Heart Foundation which supports research into heart disease and facilitates support for those recovering from its debilitating effects.

Why do they do it? Linda Johnston, whose story is featured in the 2008 Ride Guide explains. "I was 28 weeks pregnant when one of my twins was diagnosed with the heart condition Tetralogy of Fallot. My husband and I were desperate to learn all we could and fretted about what to do, what advice to take and whose advice to follow."

As the weeks passed by Linda learned that due to the work of BHF and others, such a severe congenital heart condition can be corrected and controlled. Her son Lucas, at 6 months, received corrective surgery and the family received amazing support and care. Linda is thrilled to be actively involved in L2B 2008 and hopes that further research, funded by BHF, will allow Lucas to live a life not constricted by his heart condition

Watch out for the Lindfield URC + Friends team again this year (in kiwi green shirts with a combined BHF/Lindfield URC logo designed by kippercreative), and give them a good cheer and



a cool drink as they pedal down the High Street and stop off at the church for a breather. Church members John Barling and Charlie Tingley, together with friends Simon Bloomfield, Angus Bloxham, Janina Jakubowska and Sherrie Knight have all been training to take on the challenge of Ditchling Beacon (and a few other smaller blips en route) to fly the flag for the British Heart Foundation.

John Barling

Activities for Young families

Over the next few months we will be highlighting some of the different activities which keep the church buzzing seven days of the week.

This month we start by looking at activities for our youngest members:

Tuesday: Stepping Stones

Stepping Stones is a session for parents/carers and **Stoddlers** each Tuesday morning from 10.00am until 11.30am. This is held in the Church Lounge throughout term time. The aim is to provide a happy and safe environment where those attending will make new friends and enjoy time together. We do some simple craft with the older children and the morning concludes with songs and a prayer. There is no charge for the sessions.

Places are limited, but for more information please ring:
Janet Goodenough (leader) on 01444 417002

Monday: FAITH Group

Faith Group is a group of mums and preschool children who meet once a month to spend time together, enjoy numerous cups of tea and biscuits. We encourage, share and support each other in our role as parents. Our children play together alongside us (we are also fortunate to have two ladies who help look after the children).

We try and grab a few uninterrupted minutes to have a 'thought for the day' which usually challenges and inspires

us to grow as Christian parents and encourages us to develop a relationship with Christ in our very young children.

We are now meeting at 15 Backwoods Lane, Lindfield, generally on the last Monday of each month, from 9.30am till 11.00am, and would welcome new members; there will be plenty of tea, coffee and biscuits to go around.

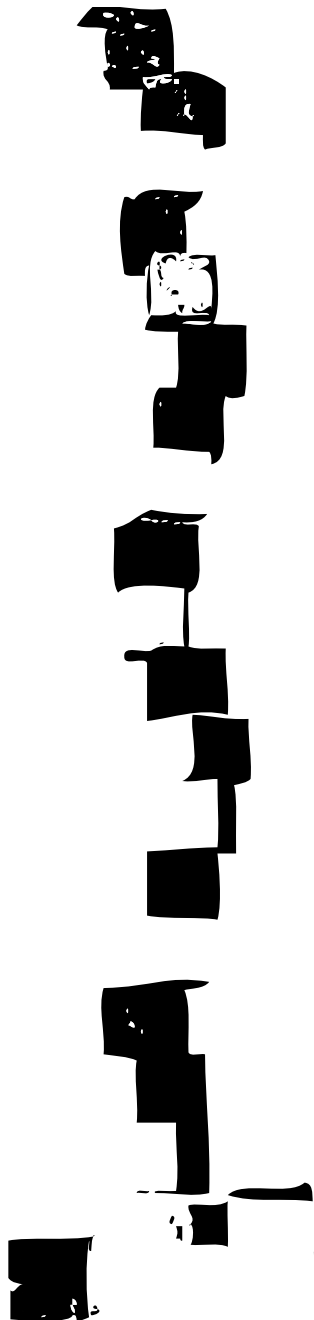
We would love to meet you there: Any queries call Becky Marlow on 01444 482484 or email becky@marlowj.freeserve.co.uk

Sunday: Creche

During our 9:30 Sunday service babies and toddlers are welcome to join us in the service where space and books are available in the concourse.

There is also a crèche room full of toys run by the creche co-ordinator and a parents' rota for babies up until they join a pre-school group.

Look out for information on more URC ministries in coming editions of GoodNEWS or check the website: www.lindfieldurc.org.uk for details of everything happening in the life of the church.



Boris Johnson



BORIS JOHNSON, the new mayor of London, has claimed that evangelical faith communities are being shunned in modern society.

In an interview with ReligiousIntelligence.com, he said that the good work done by many Christian and evangelical groups is often just ignored and derided. *"I think there is a culture now in our society where if something is even vaguely Christian, if there is a whiff of evangelical fervour about it then it's almost somehow verboten to fun shun it,"* he told the paper at a hustings event in the lead-up to the election.

He continued: *"I think that's quite wrong because if you look at the good that these groups do and you look at the way we're going to transform society and undo the breakdown that we've seen in family life, the growing-up of kids without boundaries and all the rest of the things we've been talking about in this campaign, the Christian groups are essential".*

He also told us that he wanted to be a *"mayor who campaigns for all Londoners and Londoners of all faiths"*.

He added that he would not be campaigning for a *"narrow Christian agenda"* but did believe that his message was *"appealing to Christians"*. He also noted the good works done by the growing faith-based voluntary sector. *"Everywhere I go in London — and I go to boxing clubs, reading groups, Ray Lewis' Eastside young leaders — I see people who have faith who are transforming kids, steering them away from crime."*

Johnson was baptised a Catholic but admits he has a fluctuating faith. *"I suppose my own [faith] is a bit like trying to get Virgin Radio when you're driving through the Chilterns. It sort of comes and goes."*

He added: *"Sometimes the signal is strong and then sometimes, I'm afraid, it just vanishes. And then it comes back again. That's where I am."*

Church activities

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

- 9.30am Service for all the family, including crèche and Powersource (Most weeks, children leave after 20 minutes for their own activities)
Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
- 11.00am Morning Worship
Holy Communion (4th Sunday)
- 6.30pm Evening Service
Holy Communion (2nd Sunday)
- Healing services as announced*

PRAYER MEETINGS:

- Mon 9.30am An Hour of Prayer
- Wed 9.45am Short Service of Intercession
- Thur 8.00pm Church Prayer Evening
(As announced)
- Sat 8.45 Three Churches Prayer Meeting.
– 9.30am Venue rotates between the three churches.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES:

- Mon 10.00am Art Group
- 6.30pm Boys' Brigade – Junior Section (8–11 years)
- 7.45pm Boys' Brigade – Company Section (11+ years)
- Tue 10.00am Stepping Stones (Parents and toddlers)
- 7.45pm In Touch (4th Tuesday)
- Wed 2.45pm The Fellowship (4th Wed.)
- 5:30pm Zest 1:2:3
- 6:45pm Zest 4:5:6
- Thur 10.00am Pop-In (for coffee and a chat)
- 8.00pm Church Meeting (2nd Thur.)
- Fri 5.30pm Boys' Brigade – Anchor Boys (5–7 years)
- 7:30pm Zest Plus (Years 7–10)

House Groups normally meet 1st and 3rd Thursday

**The church is open Monday to Saturday
from 10.00am to 12.30pm**

Phonebook



Church (payphone):

01444 484620

Boys' Brigade:

Geoffrey Cocksedge
01444 474007

Cradle Roll:

Sue Tester 01444 482810

Flowers:

Betty Billins 01444 484494

Hall Booking Secretary:

Carol Walters 01444 457938

In Touch:

Sue Waller 01444 455047

Lunch Fellowship:

Wednesday:
Janet Drayton 01444 483621

Friday:

Gwen Hillman 01444 456963
Anne Parker 01444 473519

Magazine: Editor:

Val Cookney 01444 440029

The Fellowship:

Jessie Green 01444 452708
Roy Billins 01444 484494

Stepping Stones:

Janet Goodenough
01444 417002

Transport:

Tina Elphick 01444 484440

Zest Co-ordinator:

Clare Nibloe 01444 484683

Powersource Co-ordinator:

Dawn Walters 01444 441601

Local events



For more information on activities going on in Lindfield,
Lindfield Times is also available from around the village.

ST PETER'S CHURCH, ARDINGLY

Rector: The Revd John Crutchley
The Rectory, Church Lane, Ardingly,
West Sussex RH17 6UR Tel: (01444) 892332

11th Ardingly Gardens Open Day Saturday 14 June, 11am – 5pm

Entry fee £4 per adult, pays for all 15 gardens. Accompanied children free. Start at St Peters Centre, or any garden displaying Gardens Open sign, when you will be given a map. Refreshments, including light lunches will be on sale at the Centre from 11am. St Peter's Church will be open & Organists will play for you.

Why not have a Garden Weekend and visit the Balcombe Gardens Open Day

on the following day **Sunday 15th June, 2-6pm.**

Cost 4.50, (50p for Children) for 12 gardens
Tickets, with map, on sale in the Victory Hall from 1.30 on the day, or in advance from Balcombe Stores, Tea Rooms or Hairdresser (Heads Together). Teas available in the Victory Hall 1.30pm – 6pm.

MONTHLY CHURCH PRAYER EVENING

Prayer Walk

Thursday 26th June, 7.45pm

This month we will be taking to the roads of Lindfield for a PRAYER WALK.

Please do join us if you possibly can - meet at the Church at 7.45pm. There will be a choice of a short, medium or long walk, so you can choose whatever suits you.

We expect to finish by 9pm at the latest, when light refreshments will be available at the Church - a chance to 'Chill out' and share our experiences!

To publicise your community event here see contact details on page 2. Diary entries included at the editor's discretion.