

GoodNEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2008

Celebr8

Our God, our Faith, our Family



Church
Weekend
Away



21st – 23rd
November 2008

PLUS...

- Find out more about Celebr8
- Some ideas for Christmas presents
- A way to view the credit crunch



Inside...

Mike Gardiner warms us up for the Church Weekend Away, introduces Alex Jacob, and provides a brief outline of the weekend and helpful prayer points for those not able to attend. See page 4.



Alex Jacob will be speaking at Celebr8 later this month.

Dear Friends...



If you are anything like me, you will be utterly bemused by all the talk of credit crunch, liquidity crisis and stock-market bail-outs. The world of Wall Street and the Stock Exchange seems to have gone mad and everything is in what the economic experts call “melt-down”. The amounts of money are staggering – literally trillions of dollars and billions of pounds – and it all seems more and more confusing and impenetrable with each passing day. Like most people, I just keep my head down and am grateful that, for the time being at least, there is a roof over it! Many are not so fortunate.

We are told that it's all the fault of “the Money Men”. Who are they? A few years ago the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Nigel Lawson, called people who work in the City “teen-age scribblers.” Have they grown up and turned into thirty-something scribblers? And has their scribbling brought us all into the state we are now? I have to say that I find it hard to understand how people in the finance industry can earn such vast bonuses each year, but I am told that some of them are physically and mentally exhausted after just a few years of shouting and waving across the floor of the Stock Exchange, so maybe they deserve their bonuses.

Where does it all leave you and me? Probably, if we are honest, the answer is in a state of considerable anxiety. After all, there is precious little ordinary folk like you and me can do to affect world economic conditions. We are told that our savings will be safe and that we must ignore the way that banks and former building

societies seem to be toppling over like nine-pins, but memories passed on by parents and grand-parents of austerity and unemployment are not encouraging.

Is there a Christian perspective on all this? Was the Archbishop of York right when he characterised some people involved in the money markets as “bank-robbers”? Words such as “greed” and “debt” have a very unpleasant ring about them, but there is an inevitability about such things in a world where the mantra is “You have to speculate in order to accumulate.” So, is Capitalism dead, just as Communism died in 1989? Is this the dawn of a new era? Would that it was!

However, there is an even more important question to ask. If we in the rich, well resourced part of the world are going to find it hard, what about those people hanging on to dear life in the Sahel area of North Africa, where drought and desertification are destroying any possibility of a decent life, or in reality, any life at all?

To lose your home is one of the worst things that can ever happen to anyone. Please God it doesn't happen to you, but maybe – just maybe – the calamity which seems to be engulfing us at the moment could have just one positive effect. Maybe it will encourage us to realise that the love we share with those close to us is infinitely more precious than figures on a bank-statement. Maybe it will help us to appreciate the incredible generosity of our heavenly Father, in sending His Son to bring us back to Himself. I hope so.

*With love from your Pastor and friend,
Charles Martin*

GoodNEWS

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A list of serving Elders can be found in Who's Who?

Editorial



There is much to read this month. We are focusing on Celebra8 which we look forward to this month, so do have a look at Mike's article, and use it to pray for this coming weekend away altogether.

Charles Martin writes for our series and tackles the challenging subject of Spiritual Warfare. He gives us very practical ideas to help us.

There are also ideas for books to give as presents for Christmas. Dan McQuillin writes about the Credit Crunch and focuses us on Jesus with whom our security is best placed.

This month's mission focus is on Romans 1:11. Jacqui Adams and Margaret Gomme tell us a little bit about sponsoring a child from a different country.

There's a lot more besides so do read on.....

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



How do we pray – head in hand, on our knees, while we are busy, happy or sad? No doubt, all of these times, and many many more. Life itself is a prayer, the passing thoughts of joy and thankfulness – the stumbled words of pain and distress. All will be heard by the loving God in whom we place our trust. Perhaps it is also important to take time to listen, so that our minds are receptive to the inner voice which may bring us the guidance we so urgently seek;

So let us pray...

SUNDAY - for **SUFFICIENCY**; - that this world which can provide enough food for all, will do, and that people will learn to share it more equally so that no one need go hungry.

MONDAY – Pray for **MORALITY** to be restored; that virtue and righteousness be valued and the innocence of children preserved.

TUESDAY – **THANKFULNESS**. Open our eyes to the beauty around us for the love of family and friends and all the comforts we enjoy.

WEDNESDAY – **WORSHIP**. Pray that as far as we are able we will be regular in worship, drawing strength from one another and thereby be enabled to reach out to others in need.

THURSDAY – **TOLERANCE**; Help us to know that within our faith there are other points of view, rightly held and help us to learn from one another.

FRIDAY – thank God for **FREEDOM**, in our every day lives and in worship. Pray for the oppressed peoples of the world that they may find strength and hope.

SATURDAY – pray that whatever strength and ability we have may be used willingly in **SERVICE** to one another and to God's greater glory

Dorothy Brown



Celebr8

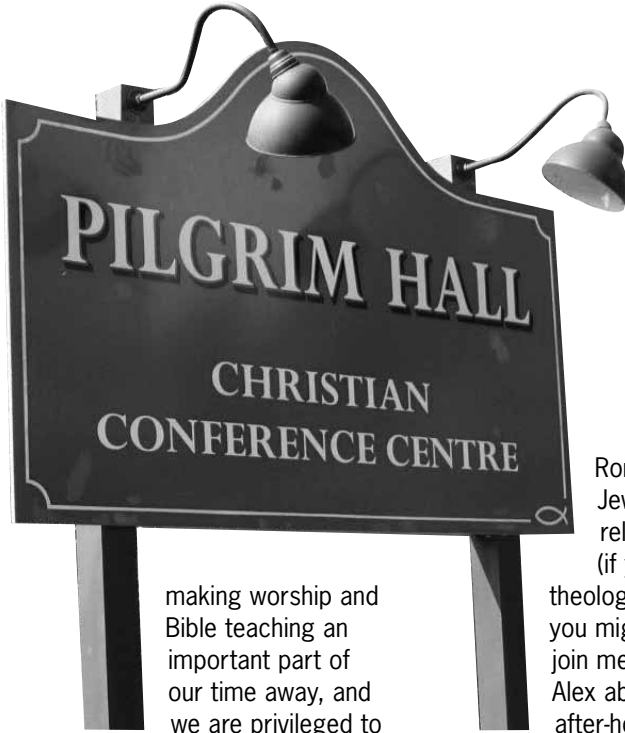
Our God, our Faith, our Family

It was at the Church Meeting in September 2007 that we as a church took the step of faith to commit ourselves to secure the exclusive use of the conference centre at Pilgrim Hall for our Church Weekend away on 21st – 23rd November this year. In a further step of faith, we decided to follow the elders' recommendation not to publicise the actual cost, leaving people to contribute as the Lord laid on their hearts, so that no-one would be barred from attending because they couldn't afford it. There may have been some doubts as to whether we would fill the place, and whether the money would be raised – but, praise God, our faith has been justified. On the first count, we are full to overflowing and are having

to utilise a nearby hotel for overflow accommodation. As to the cost, we have, at the time of writing, approaching 95% of the cost covered by voluntary donations in the Celebr8 envelopes. Praise God that he honours us when we step out in faith, whether as a church or as individuals.

And so we are confident that our Weekend Away is going to be a highlight in the life of Lindfield URC. Our Celebr8 logo enjoins us to celebrate our God, our faith and our family, and we are looking forward to doing just that at Pilgrim Hall. But this involves preparing ourselves, and not just by thinking up a good sketch for Saturday night! More important is that we arrive at Pilgrim Hall expecting God to do something new in our lives as individuals and as a church.

We will celebrate our God by



making worship and Bible teaching an important part of our time away, and we are privileged to have as our guest

the Rev Alex Jacob. Alex is a URC minister who has served pastorates in Lichfield, Aylesbury and Linton, Cambs. He is now Director of Advocacy for the Church's Ministry Amongst Jewish People (CMJ), based in Nottingham. Alex lives at Cambridge with his wife Mandy, and they have three children aged 14 upwards. There will be an opportunity during the weekend to hear more about the work of CMJ, which will celebrate its Bicentennial in 2009. He is currently pursuing postgraduate research based mainly on

Romans 9-11 and Jewish-Christian relations (if you're

theologically inclined, you might like to join me in quizzing Alex about this at an after-hours session!).

Alex relaxes by playing hockey and chess, and he supports Cambridge United football club (so there are worse things than following Brighton and Hove Albion!). He enjoys Indian food and listening to Bob Dylan – and, we hope, speaking at Church Weekends.

Our Weekend programme also ensures that we have time for our Church family. The size of our membership and our very full range of weekly activities has a downside – that few of us have the time to get to know people outside our circle of friends, beyond the quick greeting on

Church Weekend Away

a Sunday morning. What made Unite 2001, our last Weekend Away, such a blessing to me as a new church member was to discover some wonderful people who had previously just been faces. So we'll be having fun together – the Family Ball on Saturday evening is part of this as we enjoy seeing people display hidden talents for song, poetry, acting or humour at our Concert Party. But we'll be doing more than having fun together – it would be wonderful if each of us, as part of his or her preparation, were praying that we would be part of God's blessing to others. New Testament teaching on the church is full of references to "one another." Things like loving one another, praying for one another, encouraging one another, and many more. I've put a list of some of the references at the foot of this article; why not engage in a little Bible study of your own as part of your preparation, and resolve to be a blessing to someone at Pilgrim Hall?

One sad thing about an event like this is that some of you, for very good reasons, have not been able to sign up, and it is easy for you to feel left on

the sidelines. We don't want you to feel like this, and we are very grateful that some of you have been able to contribute to the Weekend by giving a gift to enable others to attend. Thankyou very much for this. You have also supported us as you have prayed for Celebr8, and we are counting on your continued prayer support. Will you pray in particular for those of us on the committee as we ensure that the practical running of the Weekend goes well. And of course that Alex Jacob may experience the liberty and power of the Spirit and will himself be blessed as he ministers to us. You may like to have this outline (opposite page) of the Weekend before you as you pray, so that you can uplift us in prayer at strategic times.

There will, as you know, be no Sunday morning services in our church on 23rd November, so we pray that God will bless you if you are planning to worship with one of our sister churches in the village. But there is no reason why you should not drive down to Pilgrim Hall on that morning (or get a lift with someone) to join with us in the worship and teaching sessions – any committee member will give you directions. But remember that

(unless you have already booked meals) you will not be able to eat with us, because we have

already confirmed final numbers with Pilgrim Hall.

Mike Gardiner

A brief outline of the Church Weekend Away

Friday 8.15 – 9.15pm: Welcome, introductions and worship

Saturday 9.30 – 10.30am: Worship and Teaching (John 2 vv1-11)
11.30 – 12.30am: Worship and Teaching (John 2 vv12-25)
2.00 – 4.00pm: Free time
4.15 – 5.15pm: Optional session
6.00pm: Drinks Reception, followed by Dinner
7.30pm: Family Entertainment

Sunday 9.30 – 10.30am: Worship and Teaching (John 3 vv1-21)
11.15 – 12.30am: Worship and Teaching (John 4 vv1-26)
3.00 – 4.15: Closing Family Worship and Communion

The Life of Faith as a “One Another” Style of Life.

- John 13v35
- Romans 12v16
- Romans 15v1 & 7
- Colossians 3v13-16
- Hebrews 10v25
- Ephesians 5v21
- James 5v16



Eden.co.uk

– “A World of Christian Resources”

Eden.co.uk is a very handy on-line Christian resource. They have regular sales (!) and a superb selection of goodies on offer ~ a site to consider for family & friends: Christmas or birthday gifts. One item I have purchased from them is the DVD “MATTHEW” ~ a dramatization of the book of Matthew, using the New International Version of the Bible ~ word for word! It is an awesome, superb production and worth every penny ~

Talking of awesome... “THE HEAVENLY MAN” by Brother Yun. This book is the remarkable true story of a Chinese Christian. What Brother Yun endures in order not to deny his love for Jesus is astonishing. But be warned, once picked up it is very difficult to put down . . . I found myself carrying it around the house!

Jacqui Adams

Book Review – The Shack

This book is causing a bit of a stir. Some have loved it and have been ‘blessed’ by it. Others are deeply suspicious of it to the point that they suggest that it is heretical. So that’s whetted your curiosity!!

In essence it is a story, a fictional narrative, about one man and his journey to a greater understanding of God’s love for and commitment to him. It is deeply moving and will bring you to tears. It is also light-hearted and makes you smile. It is not a theological thesis, it is fiction and the purpose of fiction is to “stimulate the imagination”. Is that a bad thing, when so often we in fact reduce the scope of God’s love by our limited human imaginations?

It’s a book worth reading, but it should be read understanding it is a novel; one man’s attempt to put into words his view of God’s faithfulness and love to him in story form. But maybe it can help us too.

Val Cookney

Advent Calendars

Sadly, it isn’t easy to find a Christian themed advent calendar in the shops and with the loss of our local Christian Bookshop this task is made more difficult. It will be worth the search though because it starts the Christmas season off in the right way and reminds us and the children of the greatest true story ever told!

*Best wishes,
David and Lydia
Goodchild*

Reading and music

I work just ten minutes walk from Holy Trinity Brompton and, one lunchtime recently, took advantage of this proximity to browse for Christmas present ideas in their extensive bookshop. They have a number of 'Top10' categories of best sellers and I record below the top five in their Christian Life, Biography and CD categories. Some of the items are new, some of them old, but there is something for every taste.

Christian Life Top 5

1. **Graham Tomlin (2007) The seven deadly sins and how to overcome them**

Today the attitude of many is, "I know I shouldn't really, but it will be fun and won't do anyone any harm". As the cover says, this book is written, "for a world where sin evokes smirks rather than shudders".

2. **Tom Wright (2007) Surprised by Hope**

The author is the Bishop of Durham and he examines what Christians hope for and how it affects the way we live here and now. He asks, "What do we mean by the 'resurrection of the body' and how does that fit in with the image of sitting on clouds playing harps?". Sounds like a good read as it's always worried me that the thought of playing a harp for eternity doesn't tick my box for excitement!

3. **Rick Warren (2002) The purpose driven life**

This will be familiar to many because over twenty million copies have been sold and it has been used as a study book by some of the Lindfield URC house groups. It was the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association (ECPA) Book of the Year in both 2003 and 2004!

4. **Philip Yancey (1997) What's so amazing about Grace?**

More than ten years on and it's still in the "Top 10". This was the ECPA Book of the Year in 1998.

5. **Andy Freeman and Peter Greig (2007) Punk Monk**

This is written by two champions of the 24-7 Prayer Movement (www.24-7Prayer.com), according to Peter Greig, "To encourage and equip people to establish their own communities of Christ-centred, mission-minded prayer groups as centres of

Ideas for Christmas presents

blessing, both for Jesus himself and for those who do not yet know him”.

Recommended: I am a sucker for books and while browsing I couldn't resist buying (perhaps I should read the section on greed

in the number one book above!) a copy of Nicky Gumbel's new book, *Is God a delusion?* (2008), too recently published to be in the top anything. This book looks to be a fascinating riposte to recent books by atheists, such as that of Richard Dawkins.

Biography Top 5

1. Nicky Cruz (1968) Run baby run

Forty years on from publication, its number one position demonstrates what a powerful message this book has carried across generations. It is a tale of conversion of a violent New York gang member to the point where he says, “You could cut me in a thousand pieces and lay them out in the street. But every piece would cry out ‘Jesus loves you’. And you’ll never be able to run from that”.

2. Jackie Pullinger (with Andrew Quicke) (1980) Chasing the dragon

This is an amazing story of how one woman reached into the infamous ‘walled city’ of Hong Kong, rife with gang crime, prostitution and drug use – she found that baptism in the Holy Spirit was a powerful treatment for drug addiction.

3. Angus Buchan (with Jan Greenough and Val Waldeck) (2006) Faith like Potatoes

The author is a South African farmer of Scottish extraction and this book relates how his gentle but uncompromising faith carried him through drought, financial crisis and family tragedy. This true life story has been made into a film available on DVD, described as “an inspiring story of faith and perseverance”. Perhaps someone will watch it and let us know if the potatoes are like mash (great!) or Smash (not so great)! By coincidence, only three days after I had first heard of Angus Buchan, Bill Green (over here from Perth) told

me that he is now helping to organise a Men's Conference in Western Australia for 1,500 men at which Angus, who he has met before, will be the main speaker. Clearly Bill's practice in helping with Men's Breakfasts at the URC has held him in good stead!

4. Bilquis Sheikh (with Richard Schneider) (1978) I dared to call him Father

Around for some years now but an unforgettable story of the struggles of a Pakistani woman who, reading about Jesus in the Koran, turns to the Holy Bible to learn more and, in so doing, encounters huge resistance from her culture.

5. Julie Sheldon (with Lucy Elphinstone) (1991) Dancer off her feet

A ballet star, stricken by illness and confined to a wheelchair for three years, Julie Sheldon is cured by the power of prayer and finds healing not just of her body, but of her mind and spirit also.

Recommended: Not even in the Top 10, but at least sharing the same bookshelves was Bear Gryll's (2000) biographical account, *Facing up*. This tells the story of how, at the age of 23, he became the youngest Briton to reach the summit of Mt Everest, only two years after breaking his back in a free-fall parachuting accident. This should be good reading for those of you who enjoy seeing him eating lizards or digging for water with his bare hands in his TV shows on survival.

Music Top 5

1. Tim Hughes Here I am to worship and When silence falls

This is a double CD so good value – I bought it for Helen and we both enjoy it, especially the title track of the first CD, *Light of the World (Here I am*

to worship). This was awarded the coveted Dove Award in 2003 for Inspirational Song of the Year by the Gospel Music Association, the biggest Christian music awards event. Tim Hughes works for Soul Survivor in Watford and leads worship events all over the world. He has written two books to help

Ideas for Christmas presents

those who are interested in, want to be involved in or even want to lead worship in church: Passion for Your name (2003) and Holding nothing back (2007).

2. Al Gordon Future Sound

3. Tim Hughes Holding nothing back

4. Hillsong This is our God

5. Soul Survivor (featuring Tim Hughes!) Live 2007 – Living for Your glory

Recommended: For those of you who would like a fresh introduction to modern worship music why not get someone to order you The Best New Worship Songs.....Ever! This is a compilation of 50 of the most popular new worship songs on three CDs and a percentage of the profits go to Christian Aid. Sounds perfect for Christmas!

Martin Hall

Jessie Green on **Grace** magazine

I have found over the years that a useful gift to give at Christmas is either a subscription to Grace Magazine or just a single copy. Grace is a Christian magazine from Grace Publishers which appears quarterly - Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. Members of my family and friends have received them over the years. The subscription is £12.00 for all four copies. Or say, at Christmas you can just send the Winter copy for £3 (including post and package). I have back copies if anyone is interested to borrow. Grace's telephone number is: 01202 476868, Over the 25 years I have had it I have found a lot of pleasure from it.

A younger suggestion

My suggestions for possible Christmas presents for teenagers or older young people for the magazine would be a voucher for Wesley Owen or a book token for a young person whose tastes you are unsure of. One of the things which seems to work very well for us is tickets for a particular show they want to see which you can take them to individually to make an outing of shared interests or for a football/rugby match for the team of their choice.

Barbra Balicki

Phoenix club FUNDRAISING

Christmas Project 08

The ultimate Plum Pudding Company Ltd, Kendal

Winner of a Gold Great Taste Award.



Surprisingly light, no trace of bitterness, packed with luxury fruits and nuts soaked in plenty of brandy & sherry.

This is a new approach to our fundraising endeavour: we hope to wet your appetite as you start thinking about Christmas -not too far off now! **Save yourself time & effort:** order one -or more- of these delicious 1LB Christmas puddings, purchased from the above company. -**cost £5 each.**

Please help us in our aim of providing this weekly 'drop-in' centre, where adults, who suffer with mental health problems are able to meet in a safe & loving environment, finding fellowship & encouragement; plus activities & a two-course meal: we also organize outings for meals, shows, & the occasional Saturday walk & pub lunch, etc. which they find so invaluable in their somewhat humdrum lives.

In anticipation!

The Phoenix club team: Gordon, Iris, Doreen & Mary

National Memorial Arboretum

Their Names will Live for Evermore

On a cool misty day in September Mike and I visited the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffordshire. The air was still and quiet and yet the air was charged with raw emotion, the hurt and sadness of a bereaved people whose hurt will never go away.

This Armed Forces Memorial was opened on the 12th October 2007 and was dedicated in the presence of the Queen. We had seen the opening ceremony on television and had vowed to visit it some day. We are so glad that we did.

There are more than 130 memorials on the site and it is surrounded with over 50,000 trees. These memorials are places of beauty and are incredibly moving. However, the main memorial is a stunning piece of architecture, it truly does render one speechless. There are two evocative bronze sculptures denoting suffering and bravery, one could gaze and gaze and feel the anguish of the portrayed figures. But even the sculptures did not prepare us for the emotion that we felt when we stood before the towering granite walls and saw the 16,000 names of those who have died since 1945, those who have died whilst on duty or as a result of terrorist action. Behind every name there are wives, husbands, partners, parents, children and colleagues who daily live with the sadness of their loss but also proudly honour their memory with thanksgiving.

The serenity and beauty of Alrewas will stay with us. The space left on those walls for 15,000 more names will haunt us and cause us to pray daily that wars may cease. The Millennium Chapel of Peace and Forgiveness observes a moment of silence and prayer at 11oc. every day of the year. This month gives us the opportunity to reflect, to remember and to pray for peace.

Jean Gardiner

November church diary

1st

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at Evan Free
7.30pm Concert

2nd

Sunday 9.30am Family Service
The Pastor – Boys
Brigade Enrolment
11.00am The Pastor
3.00pm Compton House Service
6.30pm The Pastor

6th

Thursday House Groups

8th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
–9.30am at Evan Free

9th

Sunday 9.30am Family Service
The Pastor
10.55am Armistice Day
The Pastor
6.30am Jenny Martin

12th

Wednesday 12.00pm Lunch Fellowship

13th

Thursday 8.00pm Church AGM

14th

Friday 12.00 Lunch Fellowship

15th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
–9.30am at Evan Free

**A Day Of Celebration and Exploration
Brighthelm URC 10am – 4.00pm**

16th

Sunday 9.30am Tim Griffiths
FAIR TRADE STALLS
11.00am Tim Griffiths
6.30pm The Pastor

20th

Thursday House Groups

21st

Friday **Celebr8**
**Church Weekend Away at
Pilgrim Hall**

22nd

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
–9.30am at Evan Free

23rd

Sunday **Celebr8**
Church Weekend Away
Services will be at Pilgrim Hall

25th

Tuesday 7.45pm In Touch “Relaxing
before Christmas “

26th

Wednesday 2.45pm Afternoon Fellowship
7.45pm Elders Meeting

27th

Thursday Church Prayer Meeting

29th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
–9.30am at Evan Free

30th

Sunday 9.30am David Jones
11.00am David Jones
6.30pm United Service at
All Saints

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:-

- 2nd Mike Gardiner
 9th 10.50am Service of Remembrance at St. Mary's
 (No Service at Balcombe URC)
 16th Charles Martin
 23rd Philip Wren
 30th Jenny Martin

OTHER LOCAL EVENTS LISTED ON BACK COVER

FlowerRota

Arranging Distributing



November

- | | | |
|------|------------------|-----------------|
| 2nd | Barbara Shepherd | Jo Bloxham |
| 9th | Betty Billins | Iris Bingham |
| 16th | Sue Waller | Heather Swann |
| 23rd | Celebr8 Weekend | Sue Tester |
| 30th | Winifrid Scopes | Jacqueline Wood |

December

- | | | |
|------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 7th | Audrey Saunders | Barbara Shepherd |
| 14th | Heather Swann | Margaret Gomme |
| 21st | Christmas Decorations | No Distribution |
| 28th | Christmas Decorations | No Distribution |

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.

Bereavement

We extend our love and sympathy to Joan Francis and her family following the death of her Granddaughter, Sienna.

Our thoughts and sympathy are also with Margaret Richardson and her family as they mourn the loss of her Husband Doug. **(Please hold these families in your prayers at this very difficult time.)**

Thanks

Doreen and Alan Fowler are most grateful for the prayers and support of Church members, following Alan's shoulder operation. It is a privilege to be members of such a caring Church.

Congratulations

To David & Carol Walters on the birth of their first grandchild Thomas.

In Touch

Tuesday, November 25th at 7.45pm

The In Touch ladies are looking forward to an evening entitled "Preparations for Christmas", with coffee and mince pies.

Please do come and join us. All very welcome.

The Fellowship

Our meeting is on **Wednesday 26th**

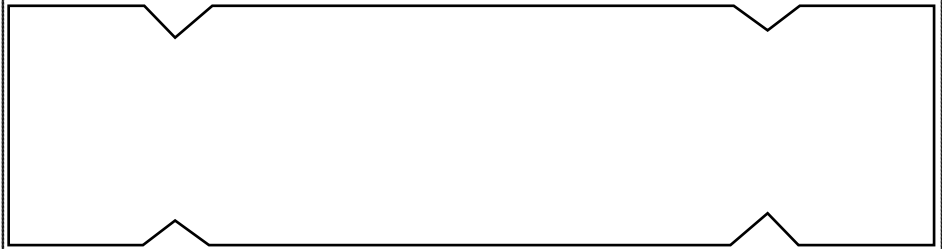
November, 2.45pm. The speaker is Mrs Jane Howell who will give us an insight into 'Clinic Work in the Gambia'. We extend a very warm welcome to her, and to all members and friends, to hear about the excellent work that is done there.

There will our usual Bring and Buy Stall
Amendments to details of Phone Book:At the A.G.M. in September Jessie Green and Roy Billins stood down as joint Chairpersons – Chris Comber is now overall Chairman
Tel 482641.

Time to go Crackers!

In the December issue, GoodNEWS will be leaving some of its pages for sending your Christmas messages to each and every GoodNEWS reader!

All you have to do is write, doodle or draw your greeting using the cracker template provided below, then place into the GoodNEWS pigeon hole by 12th November. We will scan and print your exact message in GoodNEWS. Please don't forget to write your name! GoodNEWS will be on shelves from Sunday 30th November.



He knows me, and still accepts me. And uses me. WOW!

When a woman gate-crashes a dinner party and applies perfume to Jesus' feet, he knows she is "a sinner". Yet he accepts her, and her offering. It's the same when Jesus looks into a sycamore fig tree and asks the crooked tax collector Zacchaeus to come down, because he wants to go to his house for tea. It happens again and again. Jesus seeks out the least likely candidates as being those he can do business with.

He wants them to give up their bad habits, of course. But when they do, he forgives them. And he goes on forgiving them. Peter has one of the worst records of serially messing-up, yet still he is identified as the rock on which Jesus can build his church.

Long ago, I had an experience of Jesus' acceptance, through the love and interest of a congregation who could easily have ignored me. And of them allowing Jesus to use me, in important life-forming ways, even though I was a new Christian with very rough edges. When I got it wrong, I wasn't cast aside, I was

loved into getting it right. And Jesus has gone on accepting me and using me, even though I've not stopped getting it wrong.

The Emmaus movement grew out of an encounter between a Paris priest and a man called Georges who'd tried to commit suicide, because his family couldn't cope with his re-appearance, after twenty years in prison. The priest didn't only offer Georges Christian comfort, he asked: "Can you help in my work with the homeless?" And soon Georges was building shelters for those in need. He said later "Whatever else he might have done, I'd have tried to kill myself again. But what he gave me was a feeling of worth – of having something to offer".

More than anything, Christ's acceptance gives me a feeling of worth, even though I still let Him down. When I was asked to contribute to an autumn preaching series on "The Wow factor" it wasn't hard to identify that as the "Wow" factor for me.

Stuart Dew

Romans 1: 11

– Uganda

This month we will be devoting our monthly giving to support the work that **Samuel Muhumuza** is doing in Uganda. He needs no introduction to most of us at Lindfield URC, having visited us twice in the last four years and with many of us sponsoring the education of 45 children.

He is the Pastor of the Kibaale/Ssanje Church, Director of the Spiritual Life Centre and heads up the Yesu Afaayo Project (Jesus Cares), which runs a school.

Samuel is married to Immaculate (called Immy) and they have four sons; Wycliffe, Shama, Calvin and Junior. They are also fostering a little girl who was abandoned. They named her Clever, sadly she has since been diagnosed HIV Positive..

Last October when he visited the UK we were able to donate a large proportion of the funding needed to build a 'Family House' for children at the school who, because of their circumstances,



Clever

need accommodation and looking after.

Both the church and school continue to grow. Samuel is wanting an assistant pastor to join his team to take some of the 'burden' of leading the church from him. The school now has 385 pupils with 16 teaching staff and 5 non-teaching. The school started about seven years ago with four children and one teacher!



School Block

Facilities are still fairly basic and there is a need for equipment for the school, including desks. Many of the children just sit on the floor for their lessons which is not ideal.

Samuels' next major project is to build a block for the nursery section that currently studies in temporary wooden shelters. The budget for this project is approximately £25,000 and would provide space for 100 children and staff.



Temporary Classrooms

There are more pictures on the mission display area and copies of Samuel's report. It would be great if we could

make a substantial gift towards the building of the new nursery block. If you would like to make a donation please use the special envelopes and place your gift in the offertory at any Sunday service. Please complete a Gift Aid Slip if appropriate.

Finally, do come to the concert on Saturday 1st November. Proceeds from the retiring offering will be for the school bursary fund to assist pupils needing extra sponsorship when they go on to secondary education or boarding.

Thank you

November Mission Giving

www.compassionuk.org

I first encountered Compassion whilst I was attending the New Wine Christian festival. I chatted with the gentleman on the Compassion stand and learnt a little more about their organisation: "Compassion is an evangelical Christian child sponsorship organisation who gives loving Christians a chance to make a difference. Compassion has over 50 years experience of working with some of the poorest communities in the world. During that time more than one million children have been assisted by Compassion*

I have the privilege of sponsoring two girls: it is so exciting to be able to write to them, and receive letters, in return from them. The organisation provides special writing paper with room for the translator or you can write on-line. It's so easy to do, & yet so **very worthwhile**; if you have any questions do come & ask me or the contact details listed. *notes taken from website

Jacqui Adams



Compassion UK,
43 High Street,
Weybridge, Surrey
KT13 8BB
Tel: (0)1932 836490
email:
info@compassionuk.org

Romans 1:11

When Samuel Muhumuza visited our church last year I became very interested in the stories of the young children cared for by his ministry.

I decided to sponsor a little boy the same age as my youngest Grandson.

When Samuel came to Zest, my eldest Grandson chose the photo of a boy his age. He has written to him and takes a keen interest in the life of his Ugandan friend. He was absolutely delighted when he recently received an updated photo of him wearing the socks that he had sent the boy for his birthday!

Sponsorship is very rewarding and this shows how the things that we send actually reach Uganda.

Margaret Gomme

Compassion

Helen and I have been supporting Anthony from Uganda for the last six years and it has been a real joy to see him grow, both in stature (courtesy of the regular photographs we receive) and in knowledge, evident from the changes we see in his letters.

His first letters were mainly drawings of the things important in his life: his home, chickens, trees, a football! Now he writes in English really well, tells us what he has been up to, asks about our life and always ends with a Bible verse. The monthly donation we make provides Anthony with Bible teaching, health monitoring, educational tours, games and economic skills such as handcrafts. It also provides health and parenting education as well as literacy programmes for Anthony's father – his mother has died. In addition we provide modest sums for Birthday and Christmas gifts for Anthony. Our experience of Compassion, whose logo reads "Releasing Children from poverty in Jesus' name", has been really excellent. They keep us very well informed of Anthony's progress and we can read of the benefits of sponsorship of other children around the world through their quarterly magazine. We would recommend them to anyone. We asked to sponsor a boy from Africa simply because our sons could relate to him and we used to live in Africa, but you can choose to sponsor a boy or girl for £18 a month from Africa, Asia or Latin America.

Martin Hall

Daily Struggles – Spiritual Warfare

Sad as it may be to have to admit it, but most of the less serious difficulties in church life don't come from the Devil. They come from our fellow Christians. Sometimes we can be less than loving and generous to each other. As an old Puritan once observed about one particularly cantankerous brother "I will not say that zeal for the Lord's house hath eaten him up, but it certainly doth appear to have devoured the greater part of his good manners!"

All the same, the more serious and potentially catastrophic problems we face do indeed have a spiritual origin. Christians individually and the Church collectively, are engaged in a constant, relentless struggle with evil spiritual forces that want nothing less than our total destruction. That is not an overstatement. The trouble is that most of us don't take it seriously, because the cleverest thing the Devil has ever done, is to get himself laughed at.

Two brothers were sitting next to one another in church one Sunday, when the Minister mentioned the Devil. One of them whispered to the other "I don't believe in the Devil. It's like Father Christmas – it's Dad." If only that were true! Let me repeat: Christians individually

and the Church collectively, are engaged in a constant, relentless struggle with spiritual forces of evil that want nothing less than our total destruction. St. Paul is quite clear in Ephesians 6: vv12ff.....

"Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

So, how do we cope with that struggle? I want to give you two suggestions - something we should do and something to avoid.

Something to do – stay close to Jesus.

Our spiritual enemy has a whole range of strategies and tactics because he is very

subtle. Very often we don't recognise his attacks, because he begins with suggestions that seem perfectly reasonable.

For instance, for men especially, the Internet is an area of real danger. You might be sitting alone in front of the lap-top with time on your hands. You begin to wonder what would appear if you typed a seemingly innocent word or phrase related to sex, into a search engine. Maybe you convince yourself that you are only trying to find out more about the whole area of human relationships, so in it goes. Suddenly you are offered a great assortment of enticing websites, some of which are clearly "no go" areas for Christians, but you've gone this far, so would it hurt if you went a little further? It's a terrible truth, but a very high proportion of Christian men habitually look at pornography on the Internet.

For women it may be different. You know your own danger zones, but the one thing the Devil wants to do is to lure you into thoughts and feelings that

take you away from Jesus, so the golden rule is stay close to Jesus! Having a daily quiet time, during which you read the Bible and pray, is one of the best ways to do that, but we have to be aware that as Scripture says, it's always the little foxes that spoil the vines. In other words, it's the small, seemingly insignificant temptations that lead to disaster. Not many of us are tempted to rob banks or murder our neighbours, but the delicious thrill of passing on the latest piece of gossip can be almost irresistible.

Something to avoid – letting the enemy pin you to the ground.

We all fall victim to temptation from time to time, but the secret of dealing with failure is to keep short accounts with God. In other words, when you are conscious that you have sinned, go straight back to the cross and give it to the Saviour. Never let un-confessed and un-forgiven sin pile up. The moment you realise what you have done, repent, ask

Series: Living every Day as a Christian ---

for forgiveness and then accept it. As Michel Quoist, a French Roman Catholic priest wrote, "It isn't falling that's worst, but staying on the ground!"

Another way his Satanic Majesty has of threatening and discouraging us is to induce fear. Fear is a terrible thing and it can paralyse our spiritual lives. Years ago, a consultant psychiatrist whom Jenny and I knew well and who had been a missionary in East Africa, gave us a piece of advice. During her time in Africa she had seen evil in its naked form, but she didn't let that intimidate her. "The spiritual powers of evil against which we struggle" she told us "could twist you round their little fingers if they wanted to. Your only security lies in the fact that beside you stands One Who makes them sick with fear." In saying that, she was reminding us of a verse from I. John – chapter 4: v.4. Referring to the way in which Holy Spirit lives in each and every Christian believer, he says.....

"..... the One Who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

Earlier on I said that our spiritual enemy is subtle and so he is. Indeed, he is of

infinite subtlety and if he cannot persuade you to underestimate him, he will do the opposite and make you so terrified of what he can do, that you lose confidence. Never ever think he can bring you down, unless you co-operate with him and allow him to.

This struggle goes on day after day, year after year, but we are on the winning side and just as the Nazis knew there was no real hope of victory after "D-Day", so his Satanic Majesty knows he's a defeated foe and needs to be reminded of that again and again.

There are so many more questions that can be asked on this subject, not least for instance "Where did evil come from in the first place?" All we know for sure is that our Lord Jesus Christ is victorious over every wicked spiritual entity. One day, at His Name, every knee shall bow and every tongue confess Him as Lord. Some will do so gladly; others will do so in spite of their implacable hatred and opposition. Those of us who love Him, look forward to that day with a great sense of hope and exaltation, because nothing and no one can ever rob Him of His victory!

C.S.Martin



You may not recognize the above logo or be aware that The Haven has operated in Burgess Hill for several years offering support to anyone facing an unexpected pregnancy or suffering from post abortion stress. Each client contacted is given the opportunity to talk privately and confidentially, either by phone or meeting with a councillor.

There are now two Centres open each Friday between 3 -5 pm, one at 54 Church Road, Burgess Hill and one at the Saltworkz Café in America Lane Haywards Heath where a trained counsellor will be available to talk with any person(s). Alternatively a more convenient time can always be arranged.

It is some 18 months since I first became involved with this work, recognizing that people who are facing an unexpected pregnancy need time and space to work through all the implications involved. The counsellor's role is to be alongside the client without being judgemental, to enable that person to explore her thoughts and feelings before making any decisions regarding the pregnancy. Whatever

decision the client makes, the counsellor is expected to give her ongoing support if requested.

The Haven is also developing opportunities to visit Secondary Schools/Colleges in this area. The aim is to talk with the students and explain in detail the development of a baby from conception and to discuss the hazards of casual sexual relationships. The students are also encouraged to keep themselves for sexual relationships within marriage.

Whilst The Haven is not overtly a Christian Organisation it is very much supported by prayer and the longing that each client would choose life for the unborn child.

The thousands of abortions that happen each year should deeply challenge us all and Pregnancy Counselling Centres around the UK are endeavouring to reach out to these people in crisis situations in the hope that they will carry the baby to term and find new purpose and meaning in their lives.

Heather Swann

Lighthouse

– The new look for children’s work on Sundays!

As we begin a new academic year there are going to be new and hopefully exciting changes to the children’s work that takes place on a Sunday too.

Firstly we have been renamed ‘Lighthouse’. This is based on Matthew chapter 5 verses 14 and 15.

“¹⁴You are the light of the world.

A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.”

The children will be in one of three groups all of which are named after light sources;

- 1) **Stars**, for school **years** reception to **year 3**.
- 2) **Lasers**, for **school years 4 – 7**.
- 3) **LED’s**, for **school years 8 – 10**.

We have been really pleased to be joined by some new teachers which has enabled us to divide the children into smaller groups (that is not to say that any further volunteers would not be welcome!).

There will also be a new look to the way that Sunday mornings work from October onwards.

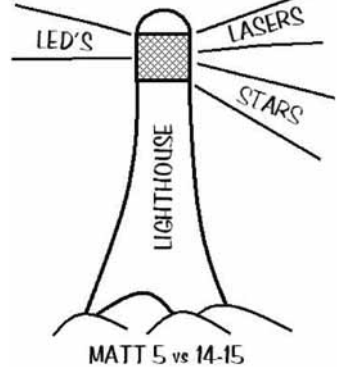
On a communion Sunday the children will be rejoining the adult congregation at the end of the service in order to be part of the celebration of communion and receive a blessing as part of this. As a result the children will go straight to their groups and will be brought back in by their leaders ready for communion.

JIGSAW will be moved to the third Sunday in the month and the children will be in church for the first 5 or 10 minutes of the service before going out to JIGSAW.

It is our hope and prayer that these new arrangements will be a real benefit to both the children and the teachers. Please pray for the week-by-week activities and that the children and teachers will feel that they meet with God as they take part.

If anyone would like any more information about our activities then please speak to me.

*Dawn Walters
(Lighthouse Coordinator)*



The value of nothing

“The cynic” Oscar Wilde quipped “knows the price of everything and the value of nothing” if that’s true then we are all living through highly cynical times.

As I write I am watching the world’s financial markets tumble on a Bloomberg terminal. With confidence and trust in banks and companies destroyed this high tech crystal ball can instantly display, chart and analyse the price of any asset, commodity or company on the planet to many decimal places. What it cannot tell me is the value of any of them.

The credit crunch is confounding banks, governments and politicians who have injected hundreds of billions of dollars to prop up the system. Staggering numbers several multiples of the money actually lost in the original US sub-prime mortgage crisis.

Without trust the banks are simply hoarding this extra money. The problem has moved beyond financial loss into lost faith, trust, and confidence. The credit crunch

is a crisis of truth and trust based on a vacuum of credibility, integrity and accountability. Without faith in each other banks and individuals are unwilling to invest or loan anything to anyone for any price.

What we are learning is that lost trust has a much greater value and is far more difficult to replace than lost money. Confidence is far more expensive than collateral to repair.

Without trust the price of stocks, banks, oil and even money itself has no reliable value at all. Our plunging markets reflect that.

In recent years the world has rewarded financial winners without regard for risk or reality – morality and integrity became viewed as valueless obstacles in the race to get rich quick. Fame and wealth have become the twin totems of success in a society which is

willing to turn a blind eye to both the methods by which they are achieved and their flimsy value and temporary status.

This has affected not just our financial wealth but the health of our families and communities. We may have never had more wealth or more possessions, but we have never felt less satisfied, less comfortable or less secure.

The bankruptcy of truth or 'credibility crunch' is proving that we should place a much higher value on truth and integrity because it is proving to be very expensive to replace.

Where banks and governments have failed churches must use their high street 'branches' to

inject truth and trust into our community. Unlike banks we must not hoard this valuable commodity for ourselves, ration it, or wrap it up in language which means only experts can understand it.

Market forces, supply and demand, risk and reward ultimately determine the true price of any asset. Tested on this basis truth and trust have turned out to be of almost immeasurable value. We must have no fear sharing from our rich and plentiful supply. God provides faith, hope, truth and love enough for all and his is a treasury truly too big to ever fail.

Stuart Dew

Building Brighton

Sussex ACT United Reformed Church Building Community

When – **15th November 2008 10am-4pm**

Where – **Brighthelm URC North Road Brighton**

Contact – Maureen Lawrence 01273 306288

YOU are invited to a day of Building Community
celebrating, learning and having fun.

Want to know more – there is information in the Hall and a sign up sheet.

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.

ARDINGLY CHORAL SOCIETY MID SUSSEX SINFONIA

Remembrance Day Concert

Sunday 9th November, 7.30pm

The Dolphin Centre, Haywards Heath

Conductor **Robert Hammersley**

Poulenc - Gloria

Haydn – Seasons

Sibelius – Finlandia

Tickets £12, £10 Concessionary

Available from The Dolphin Centre Box Office

Shirley Ventham – 01273 831264

Carousel Music – 01444 417654

IN AID OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Preservation Society

has a meeting by

Martin Hayes

Tuesday 18th November, 2.30pm

King Edward Hall

**Martin will introduce a new selection of
Images from the Archives. All Welcome.**

LINDFIELD ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

Coffee Morning

Tuesday 18th November, 10am – 12noon

'Oaklee', Compton Road

Entrance 50p which includes coffee or tea.

Please support this event if you can

Betty Billins