

Dear Friends...



In most of the churches I have served, at some point in the year, we have celebrated the Church Anniversary. In the old days (before even I came on the scene) the Church Anniversary was a red-letter day. In tandem with the Sunday School Anniversary, elaborate preparations would be made and a programme of special services and anniversary teas would be arranged. Great efforts would be made to persuade some notable dignitary to be the preacher and on the day, the church would be decorated with a profusion of flowers.

We do things more simply these days, but this year at Lindfield URC, we have a special anniversary to celebrate. Two hundred years of witness and service is not a bad achievement and we need to give thanks for the faithfulness of previous generations. In doing so, this year we have our own programme, comprising a church and village exhibition, a concert and “Time Travel” presentation and on Sunday October 18th at 10.30am, a United Act of Worship with our friends from Balcombe at which the Synod Moderator – the Revd. Nigel Uden – will be the preacher.

That’s fine and dandy, but what’s the point of it all, beyond looking back into the past? The clue to the answer is in the date – October 18th. It may be unusual for us as evangelical Christians to think in these terms, but October 18th is the day set aside in the Church’s calendar to remember St. Luke. On our anniversary Sunday, Christians throughout the world will be remembering and giving thanks for St. Luke and because he was a physician, they’ll be praying about and dedicating themselves to, the ministry of healing.

In the New Testament, we are told that God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, no longer holding men’s sins against them and that He has given us the task of spear-heading that reconciling work, wherever we happen to be. Healing and reconciliation go together. The healing of bodies is of little use if relationships are still fractured and so many are broken these days. The most important of those broken relationships is the one between us and God – the relationship that sin has smashed and Jesus’ death has healed.

Our church must never exist for its own sake. We are not here just to “keep the show on the road”. Together with our fellow believers at All saints and the Evangelical Free Church, we are agents of God’s healing, reconciling work. With recent triumphs on the cricket pitch in mind (we won’t mention the losses) 200 not out is not a bad score, but it’s certainly no time to declare. We have the rest of our lives to pile on the runs!

*Your Pastor and friend,
Charles S. Martin.*

GoodNEWS

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Editorial



I am writing this after listening to Michael Davies preach on the amazing fact that God chooses us and He sends us out to share His Love and gift of life in the places where we live and work. How appropriate to be reminded and challenged on this as we come to Celebrate 200 years of God's people worshipping Him and being his Body in Lindfield. This month the magazine has a feature on the Past and Present of the Church and also some members have kindly written down some of their memories of being part of this church.

Jenny Martin relates how God has so clearly guided and encouraged Matt and Elizabeth in their journey to being an Assistant pastor up in the North. Do use this article to pray for Matt and Elizabeth. Matthew Wren also writes about how God leads and directs us, when we are willing.

Jonathan Hall helps us think through another difficult issue from a Christian perspective—Organ Donation.

There are pages again for the younger members of the Church, but older ones please feel free to read too – no one will know!

Val



A Pipe Dream

I recently found this poem when sorting through various Church papers from my loft. Although it is entitled “A Pipe Dream”, to me it is also in part, a prayer. Perhaps it will speak to your heart, too. Maybe the sentiments expressed might prompt some of those arrow prayers (which we can offer to the Lord at any time), as we rush through life, listen to the news or simply pass people in the street. See what you think!

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have the time and leisure
Just to take a quiet look at things that give us pleasure;
Or is the world in such a state with trouble and with strife
That people are forgetting the better things in life.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to hear some workers say
“Forget our petty grievances we'll do our share today.
Let's think of other people and not kick up a fuss,
There must be many others far worse off than us.”

Wouldn't it be wonderful to never find a trace
Of any discrimination whatever creed or race;
If those against the coloured would always keep in sight
The fact we had no option of choosing black or white.

Wouldn't it be wonderful when walking in the street,
If we would give a friendly smile to everyone we meet.
Ignore our little troubles, don't worry about wealth,
What good is all the money if we haven't got our health?

Wouldn't it be wonderful if all these things came true,
What a difference it would make to folk like me and you;
But it will never happen until the time we can
Do something that will alter the selfishness of man.

A.E.G.

Fo Tingley

Through The Window:

Lindfield URC Past And Present

Well, you've heard about it for some time now and here we are in October, the month when it's all going to happen. Such is the scope of our activities that we have been preparing for the church and village exhibition and the "Time Travel" concert since January!

Although we are celebrating our "200th" Anniversary, to be precise, there are two anniversaries rolled into one. Firstly the important Dissenters' meeting in 1810, (Dissenters were break away groups from the Anglican Church) and, in 1858 the present building was consecrated so, this year, strictly speaking, celebrates 199 and 151 years! We thought the best way to approach these two dates was to hold the event somewhere in the middle!

Why are we doing it? Firstly, to remember that early Dissenters' meeting when Frederick Hamilton, a pastor from Brighton, visited a friend in Lindfield and preached a sermon at his house. This sermon obviously had a great impact on those present, and meetings were held after that in a cottage on Black Hill, then in a room above the Bent Arms (known as the Ball Room) and in 1812-13, a chapel

was built on the site of our present church by Mr. Stephen Wood, a builder from Brighton.

Secondly, to celebrate the opening of our present building in October, 1858, and to remember all the faithful ministers, deacons and elders, members and friends who have worked so hard to keep this church going through the years - occasionally through some very lean times indeed. Without their love and devotion to the Lord and to our church we probably wouldn't be here today!

Finally, we want to celebrate our church life today and look to the future by giving people a taste of what we are up to at the moment with our worship, organisations and groups which cater for young and old alike.

What's going to happen? There will be a special Church and Village Exhibition in our church from Wednesday 14 to Saturday 17 October from 10am - 12.30pm each day, highlighting the history of our church in far greater detail than I have gone into above, what life was like, people who helped form the church and village, and how we coped with, and celebrated various national events. On the Saturday evening at 7pm, there will be a Concert and simultaneous Time

Travel presentation combining church and national events: a well thought out and fun occasion not to be missed. Last, but by no means least, on the Sunday morning at 10.30am the Rev'd Nigel Uden, Moderator of the Southern Synod of the United Reformed Church will be taking our service which will be followed by a "Bring and Share" lunch.

What can you do to help? Please pick up a couple of extra leaflets to pop through your neighbours' letterboxes, or you could even have a chat with them - we really want this event to be a time of outreach and evangelism. Over seventy letters have been sent out to former worshippers who have moved out of the area, so we expect it to be a grand reunion as well! The village is plastered with posters so it will be almost impossible for people not to know what's going

on especially as we hope to appear in the local press and on radio. Such is our faith that there will be a video 'overflow' in the lounge if necessary - a softer seat alternative to the church! Finally, but most importantly, we need your prayers so that we will be able to reach out to the people of Lindfield who do not yet know of God's love and compassion, and bring Him into their lives.

It will certainly be an event not to be missed - no tickets needed, just pop in to the exhibition and concert. We look forward to seeing you and your friends and neighbours.

Stuart and Carol Marsh.

Memories!

We have asked some Church members for one of their memories about the Church here in Lindfield.

Childhood Memories

My earliest memory of Lindfield Congregational Church (as it was then) is that there was no electricity in the church. Instead, there were twin gas-lamp standards at the end of some of the pews which were built with two aisles as they are today.

My father, William Wood, was the choirmaster and organist for forty two

Feature – Church Anniversary

years, and my job was to pump the old organ for him whilst sitting on an organ blower's chair hidden behind a curtain. There was a small choir of seven to eight singers who processed down the church each week to climb the stairs to the gallery where they were heard but not seen!

I remember that my father and I welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Trinder to Lindfield and helped with their first manse which at that time was one of a pair of cottages opposite the old stores in Horsted Keynes. Our church was part of a group of churches with Horsted Keynes and Ardingly in those days just after the war.

Graham Wood

Thoughts and Memories of Lindfield URC in the 1950's

I started attending the church regularly in 1954, and my father, the Rev'd Albert Trinder, was the Minister. I remember that the building at that time was rather dark and sombre. The pews, pulpit (which was then in the middle under the cross) and extensive wood panelling were stained a very dark brown. There was no big hall at the back, only a small room behind the church.

Although the congregation was only small at that time numbers soon began to grow. There were several weekday activities including a Youth Club and Women's Guild, but the big event of the year was the Anniversary Celebrations held in October.

There was also an afternoon Sunday School, run by Ivy Butcher, and I taught there. I remember that when I first went out with my future husband, Chris, I had to get special permission to have an afternoon off!

I have many happy memories but the best of all though, is, of course, the day in 1956 when I married Chris!

Mary Comber

Memories of editing the Good News

Stuart and I came to live in Lindfield, newly married in late 1969, and started attending this church where we received a very warm welcome from Richard Tucker and members.

In the very early Seventies we were asked to edit “Good News” and we agreed with some trepidation! The magazine was, of course, smaller and simpler in those days, but with no handy modern technology it was still quite a task.

As most of the copy was given to us handwritten, I had to type everything out on an ancient typewriter; this was then delivered to a printing firm and we had no chance of proof-reading it ourselves. This could lead to some embarrassing mistakes - Mies Brock (now Campling) became “Miss Brock and her son Charles”! Plumpton and Ardingly churches shared the magazine and their copy also had to be collected and typed.

At the end of 1985, with work and family commitments we felt it was time to retire and pass the work on. Things often go full circle, though, and here we are again, some twenty four years later, assisting the editor of Good News (but this time with email!).

Carol Marsh

A ‘God-Incidence’

My first encounter with Lindfield URC was as a teenager. My family had been coming to the church for a few months but I had decided that it was much easier to have a lie-in on a Sunday morning instead. One Sunday my Dad was away on business and my Mum asked me to come to church with her. After a fair bit of grumbling we arrived late and could not get a seat together. My Mum said – “sit down next to Sue over there – she’s nice”. As I sat down on the free seat I don’t know who looked more shocked – her or me. Sue was my English teacher at the time and I’m pretty sure that I was the last person she expected to be sitting with that morning. Many years later I can see that this is just one of the many ‘God-incidences’ that have shaped my life through our church. There have been lots of changes over the years as we have increased in numbers, size of premises and types of activities. Lets pray that as we move forward into the next chapter we can keep God central to our lives together and keep watching, as Sue did, for the ‘coincidences’ he puts in our way.

David Goodchild

Through the Window

Come and celebrate 200 years of history of Lindfield United Reformed Church

CHURCH AND VILLAGE EXHIBITION

Wednesday to Saturday 14-17 October
10am to 12.30pm

CONCERT AND 'TIME TRAVEL' PRESENTATION

Saturday 17 October 7pm
Refreshments afterwards

CHURCH SERVICE

Sunday 18 October 10.30am
Service conducted by The Revd Nigel Uden,
Moderator of the Southern Synod of the
United Reformed Church,
Followed by "BRING AND SHARE LUNCH"

All events at Lindfield United Reformed Church, High Street, Lindfield.

NO TICKETS NEEDED - JUST COME ALONG!

Just remember

Next time you feel like GOD
can't use you,
just remember...

Noah was a drunk
Abraham was too old
Isaac was a daydreamer
Jacob was a liar
Leah was ugly
Joseph was abused
Moses had a stuttering problem
Gideon was afraid
Samson had long hair and was a womanizer
Rahab was a prostitute
Jeremiah and Timothy were too young
David had an affair and was a murderer
Elijah was suicidal
Isaiah preached naked
Jonah ran from God
Naomi was a widow
Job went bankrupt
Peter denied Christ (3 times!)
The Disciples fell asleep while praying
Martha worried about everything
Mary Magdalene was the Samaritan woman who was divorced, more than once...
Zaccheus was too small
Paul was too religious
Timothy had an ulcer... AND
Lazarus was dead!

Now! No more excuses!
God can use you to your full potential.
Besides, you aren't the message, you are just the messenger...

Source: Parish Pump



Operation Christmas Child

Although we are in the midst of an economic crisis we can bring hope and a smile to a child's face. Peace, hope, love, joy..... it's amazing what can be fitted into a shoebox.

This organisation Operation Christmas Child has been running for over 19 years. The organisation works with local churches and charities overseas to ensure the shoeboxes get delivered by hand to the children who need it most. Where appropriate our local partners make available a booklet of bible stories, including the original Christmas story – the birth of Jesus.

Last year Operation Christmas Child through Samaritan's Purse, distributed an amazing 1.2 million boxes which were sent to Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Africa, filled with gifts and goodies wrapped, packed and sent to children in disadvantaged situations, by adults and children in the UK. There is a selection of stories available to read from the website which is amazing.

www.samaritanaspurse.uk.com or **www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk** where you can download knitting patterns for Clown hand puppets, Teddy bear puppets or a beanie hat. Last year the children found the clown puppets particularly popular. Children from traumatic or isolated backgrounds played with the glove puppets, who then became their little friend that they can talk to safely.

Please take a leaflet, pass one on to your friends, families and colleagues - any one you know. Men and women can make one up for a boy or a girl with lots of ideas for gifts! Last year we sent about 182 boxes. Let's see how well we can do this year.

The shoe boxes must be with us by the 15th November please.



“You’d never believe it”

Tales from a minister’s murky past (part five)

Our next-door neighbour had asked me to officiate at the burial of his father-in-law’s ashes and I had readily agreed. The evening before, he solemnly delivered them to me for safe keeping and bid me “See you at the cemetery tomorrow.” The problem was that he didn’t tell me which cemetery.

There are two in Sompting (where Jenny and I were ministers) the public one and the churchyard around St. Mary’s Parish Church. Naturally, I set out for the public cemetery, but began to get a little anxious when no one arrived at the appointed time, so I sped off to St. Mary’s. Although it’s only a stone’s throw away as the crow flies, to get to from one cemetery to the other by car, you have to drive for about half a mile in one direction along the dual carriageway of the A27, turn round and drive most of the way back. This I duly did, but when I got there, again there were no waiting mourners.

I quickly returned to the public cemetery, to find no one there. Back I went to St. Mary’s and once more, there was no show. For one last time I returned to the public cemetery, but to my despair, found no one waiting for me. What was I to do? I had the remains of father-in-law on the back seat, but I had no clue as to the whereabouts of his family.

I decided to go home and wait for instructions. Sure enough as I walked in, the ‘phone was ringing and the Funeral Director was on the other end. We soon settled where I had to go and about thirty-five minutes late, we laid father-in-law’s remains to rest. The family were very kind and the inevitable quip was forthcoming – “Silly old so and so! I knew he’d be late for his own funeral !”

CSM

Matthew Wren's Testimony

At his recent Baptism Matthew gave his testimony. He has kindly agreed to write this abridged version for the Magazine.

It was through my parents and their example that I learnt about Christianity and as a result I became a Christian in a most unspectacular fashion when I was seven. Before this I had found that I struggled to not do what was wrong. Sometimes I would reach a point where I could only pray as I have wonderfully destroyed all my other options. It was in these times that I experienced God reaching through the tangled mess of where I had put myself not to take me out of the situation but to bring me through it, and this was the basis of my faith.

It says in Psalm 111 that “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”. I can remember very clearly when it clicked and I realised that Jesus is very real and very God. To realise that I was the sinner in the Bible, did give me a sick feeling in the bottom of my stomach. So it was in the fear of God that I found myself sitting on my bed one

evening with my Mum praying the sinner’s prayer. I remember the peace I had not felt before hitting me when I finished that prayer, and I also remember feeling very matter of fact about it, I think within about 30 minutes of this prayer I had already gone to sleep.

The Christian life is easily summed up with the phrase “Trust and Obey”. I had absolutely no problem with fervour, in putting my trust in God, and making a commitment to him, however when it came to obedience I struggled.

Throughout my education I found it was very hard and constantly challenging to be a Christian. In many ways the harder the situation the easier it is to stand out, I however wanted to fit in, I wanted to be accepted, and I was diligent, I really worked at it. I would swear as a means of communication, I got into fights, and I had many detentions. When I was just

twelve years old I went to a corner shop, lied about my age, bought and subsequently tried cigarettes.

I did not do these things because I wanted to, I discovered that cigarettes are vile, I disliked the things I did, and I did them only to be accepted. It is rather ironic that it didn't work. At school the one at the top of the tree is the one who does most outrageous things and I still had boundaries, I hid them well but they were still there.

I mentioned that it was the fear of God that bought me into faith. Looking back I have found that fear invaluable. My obedience has at times been poor; I have found that when I stop obeying, my relationship and connection with God wanes. I have reached times when my faith is at such rock bottom that I have become uncertain if I really am still a Christian. In these times this fear has been all that stopped me crossing the lines I knew I must not cross.

Growing up I have increasingly

learnt how obedience is key. I have stopped looking for acceptance in the world because the lesson of my life is that it isn't in the world but in Christ. I have learnt that the more you follow the World's way the less satisfying it is. I am beginning to discover how satisfying it is to not just trust but also to obey Christ. But as I have sought to obey Christ and live in him he has been moulding me and leading me into the life he has planned for me.

I cannot set the example of being perfect simply because I am completely and utterly imperfect. I do however fear and trust God and I have learnt the importance of obedience. I tell you these things because it is out of obedience that I have chosen baptism. I know how I need Christ in my life, and that this is a step he calls us to take.

Matthew Wren

October church diary

1st

Thursday House Groups and Christianity Explored

3rd

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at URC

4th

Sunday 9.30am Morning Service & Communion Dan McQuillin
11.00am Morning Service Dan McQuillin
6.30pm The Pastor.

8th

Thursday 8.00pm Church Meeting

10th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at URC

11th

Sunday 9.30am The Pastor Boys' Brigade Enrolment
11.00am The Pastor
6.30pm Communion
The Pastor

14th

Wednesday 12.30pm Lunch Fellowship
Exhibition "Lindfield Past and Present" in the Church each morning
Wednesday 14th – Saturday 17th Oct,
from 10.00am to 12.30pm

15th

Thursday House Groups and Christianity Explored

16th

Friday 12.30pm Lunch Fellowship

17th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at URC

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

7.00pm Concert "Through the Window"

18th

Sunday 10.30am Service with Nigel Uden – United
Service with Balcombe
Followed by Bring and Share lunch
6.30pm Healing Service with The Pastor

22nd

Thursday 8.00pm Church Prayer Meeting in the Lounge

24th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at URC

25th

Sunday 9.30 am Morning Service David Jones
11.00am David Jones
6.30pm Ron Goodenough

27th

Tuesday In Touch

28th

Wednesday 2.45pm The Fellowship
7.30pm Elders meeting

31st

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at URC

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 welcome to join us.

Speakers for this month are as follows:-

October

4th Jenny Martin
11th Philip Wren
18th Join with LURC
25th Philip Wren

Flower Rota **Arranging Distributing**



October

4th	Serena Nathan	Kay Phillpot
11th	Jessie Green	Jo Bloxham
18th	Anniversary Flowers	Iris Bingham
25th	Barabara Shepherd	Heather Swann

November

1st	Audrey Saunders	Sue Tester
8th	Betty Bill	Jacqueline Wood
15th	Sue Waller	Barbara Shepherd
22nd	Winifrid Scopes	Kay Phillpot
29th	Heather Swann	Jo Bloxham

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.

God Does Guide



There are certain times when we Christians find it hard to see God at work in our lives, and there are other times when God, like a general, reveals His secret plans to us in intimate detail and we see how he has been leading and guiding us for years. His dealings with our son Matthew over the issue of his desire to serve God in the full time ministry is one example of the latter and I hope you will find this an encouragement in your own Christian life.

Matthew, for several years now has felt that God wanted him to come back to the UK from America and to do church planting. He has had a burden for the un-churched in England and felt God was calling him to do something about this. To this end Matthew got in touch with some churches in the North who had a burden for church planting round the Pontefract area, meaning to get a job in secular employment to fund a new home, then to become established in a church and eventually to be trusted with a church plant. He thought that maybe even then to tent make, [e.g. fund his church work with

a secular job] for several years before becoming a full time pastor. This meant that he had to give up his job as a particle physicist sell his house, organize the transportation of his goods and family, rather like Abraham, and come back to a very uncertain future here in the UK. God honoured him in this and we can see, looking back how he has been planning the details of this great adventure for years.

When Matthew was a student, he worked at a boy's Summer camp as a volunteer and there met another volunteer, an Anglican curate called Hugo Chartris. Then God moved Charles and I unexpectedly to Lindfield and so provided a large enough house so that we could all live together while Matthew caught up on some back science for which he had been paid but had not done. He had been studying for a Masters in biblical languages and theology and doing a consultancy at the particle accelerator in Fermilab at the same time and had fallen behind with the science. This was upwards of 1000 hours and Matthew could do nothing else until this was finished. Just before the



family arrived Charles went on a URC information day, and met a former colleague of his, who offered Matthew and Elisabeth their holiday house in Whitley Bay rent free for six months. Matthew finished his catch up in June. We had all had in our minds that the family would stay here until Matthew got his job in the North and had found the family a house and we mostly thought this might take until Christmas. However by the time June came we had been living together for about six months and the strain was beginning to tell so the family decided to move up to Whitley Bay and look for job etc from there. I felt sad about this as it seemed to me that in some way I had failed, despite my best efforts and I was very concerned that they would not be happy and that things would go badly for them.

However, because Matthew and the family moved just when they did, they overlapped with an acquaintance of Matthew's that the folk in Pontefract had

introduced him to who was living in Whitley Bay for just ten days after they moved. He then moved to York. During that ten day period, he introduced Matthew to his church in Newcastle which was a house church the pastor of which, amazingly, was Hugo Chatris.

Hugo and Matthew established an immediate rapport as did also Elisabeth with the result that after only five weeks, Hugo offered Matthew the post of assistant pastor with a view to his becoming the assistant pastor of a church plant Hugo's church had just begun in a deprived inner city suburb of Newcastle called Fenham. During that time Matt and the family had had to move from Whitley Bay for two weeks while the owner had a holiday in her house. Elisabeth, meanwhile had made real friends with a young mum at the church's mums and tots group who offered them her house for the two weeks. She decamped to her mother's house who was on holiday. The house

Following His path

was in Fenham. So Matthew and Elisabeth got to know Fenham before they even had a thought of working there. Matthew is due to start full time Christian work in October which is at least two years earlier than he could have hoped.

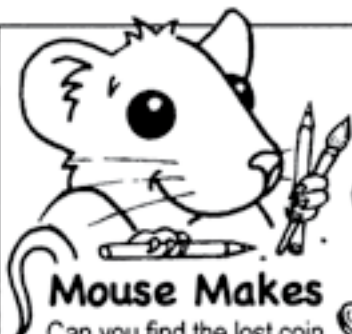
I think you will agree that in all this we can see the hand of God using even our frailty to work out His glorious purposes. Please pray that the last bit of the plan will be revealed at the right time, when Matthew and Elisabeth find a house they can afford with a little garden the children can play

in. I am sure life is going to be very challenging for Matthew as he starts full time ministry and our enemy is going to try and destroy his work. Please pray for him. You also have been part of God's plan for this little family as you made the family feel very much at home and provided a safe Christian environment for them all while they adjusted to living in the UK. Thank you and God bless you all.



Jenny Martin



A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue,
but the parent of all the other virtues.' (Cicero)



Mouse Makes

Can you find the lost coin, the lamp  and the broom  in the picture?
What else can you see?



THE LOST COIN

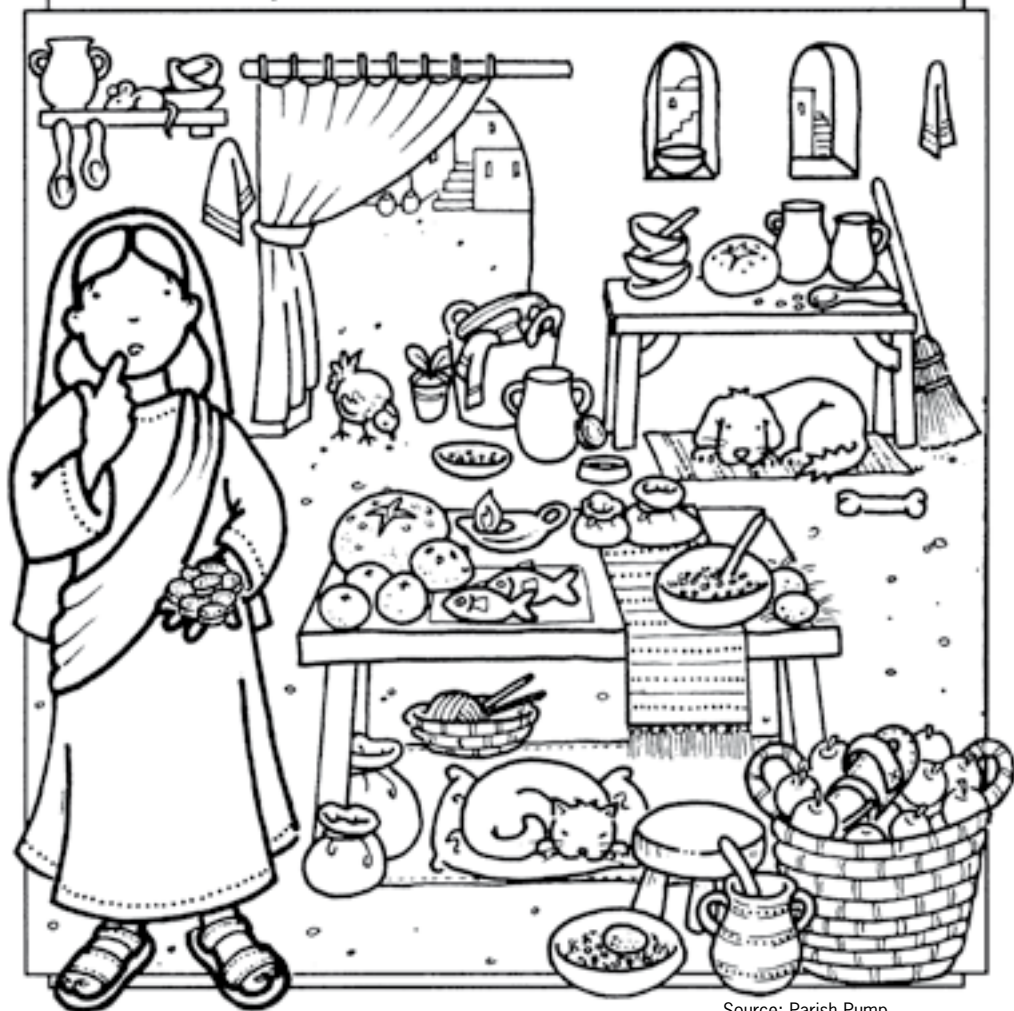
Jesus told this story:



A woman who has 10 silver coins loses one of them, what does she do? She lights a lamp, sweeps her house and looks carefully everywhere until she finds it. When she finds it she calls her friends and neighbours together and says "I am so happy I found the coin I lost. Let us celebrate!"

In the same way the angels of God celebrate over one sinner who repents.

Luke 15:8-10



Family News

Congratulations

Golden Wedding

Many congratulations to **Ann** and **John Blake** who **celebrate 50 years** of marriage on October 17th.

Ruby Wedding

We offer our warm congratulations to **Carol** and **Stuart Marsh** as they celebrate their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on October 25th.

We offer our belated Congratulations to **Jo** and **Paul Bloxham** who had their **40 Years Anniversary** in July.

Sad News

A long-standing member of our church family, **Ken Long**, died on September 8th after a short illness which he bore with great courage. Ken will be missed by many, and will be remembered for his friendship, caring heart, and great sense of humour. Our thoughts and sympathy are very much with his Family at this sad time.

New Address

Stuart and **Rosemary Dew** have now moved into their new home, and we wish them every blessing.

Their new address is:-
57, Woodslan Road, Hassocks, BN6 8EU.
Tel: 01273 841672

Additional Family News (HOT OFF THE PRESS!!)

Charlie, Marion and **Grace Tingley** are delighted to announce that **Fraser Daniel, was born on 09/09/09!** Our love and warm congratulations to them all.

The Fellowship

The meeting this month is on
**Wednesday 28th October at
2.45pm**

The speaker is Mr John Foster on the
Citizens Advice Bureau.

We extend a very warm welcome to
all. There will be our usual Bring & Buy
Stall.

GoodNEWS
Online

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

Organ Transplantation Ethics

Jonathan Hall has just started his third year studying Medicine at Leicester University. This is a summary of an essay Jonathan wrote for a Christian Medical Ethics course he took earlier this year.

Organ Transplantation - Christian ethical issues

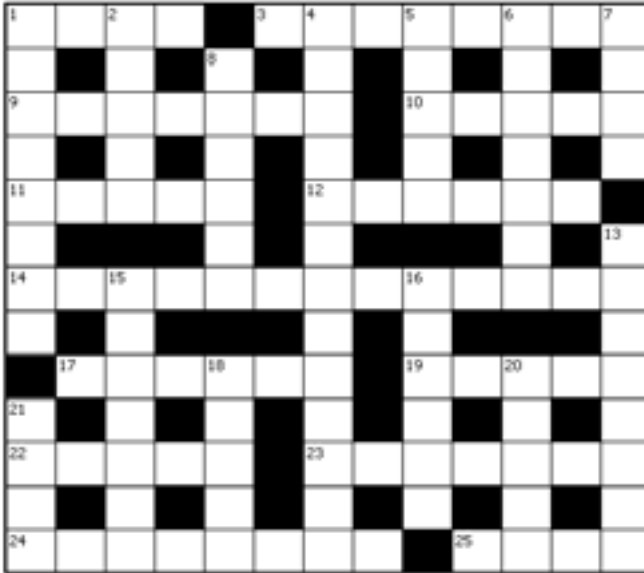
Organ transplantation is the moving of organs from either a living or deceased donor into a patient for whom it may drastically improve, or save, their life. Organ transplantation started in the 1950s with kidneys but the list of organs which can now be successfully transplanted also includes heart, liver, pancreas, lung and intestine. Tissues can also be transplanted such as blood, corneas and bone marrow.

The vast majority of individuals and major religions agree with the principle of organ donation. However, there are not enough organs available for everyone on the organ waiting list. Ethical issues thus arise when trying to reduce the gap between organs needed and organs available; for example, should the organ donor register be 'opt-in' or 'opt-out'? Christians support the principles of organ donation and transplantation as an altruistic free gift in the context of informed consent. "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" (Mark 12:31) is one of the two most important commandments and why many Christians see organ donation as a great gift and a way to love their fellow man. Therefore, some Christians may have issues with the idea of presumed consent/opting-out as the organ would then be taken, as opposed to given and the language of "donation" becomes inappropriate.

When considering the allocation of the organs which are available it can be difficult to see every patient as equal, like God does, as opposed to seeing some being more "deserving" than others. Some people would say someone who gives a lot to society and looks after themselves should have priority over someone whose illness is due to their own unhealthy habits. However, The Bible states that everyone is equal: "Rich and poor have this in common: the Lord is the Maker of them all" (Proverbs 22:2), and so everyone should have an equal opportunity to receive an organ as everyone's life has the same value.

Jonathan Hall

† Word



For the answers
please see page 28.

Across

- 1 Those who were standing near Paul said, You _____ to insult Gods high priest? (Acts 23:4) (4)
- 3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)
- 9 Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the _____ of _____, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)
- 10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)
- 11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)
- 12 Listen (anag.) (6)
- 14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)
- 17 He founded Westminster Abbey, _____ the Confessor (6)
- 19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)
- 22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)
- 23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)
- 24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)
- 25 Note (anag.) (4)

Down

- 1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)
- 2 I _____ the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free __ (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)
- 4 He took the ephod, the other _____ and the carved image (Judges 18:20) (9,4)
- 5 You are a chosen people, a _____ priesthood (1 Peter 2:9) (5)
- 6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4 5, 7) (7)
- 7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)
- 8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 13 Let the little _____ come to me (Matthew 19:14) (8)
- 15 About three thousand were _____ their number that day (Acts 2:41) (5,2)
- 16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)
- 18 Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly _____ a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:20) (5)
- 20 Glorify the Lord with me: let us _____ his name together (Psalm 34:3) (5)
- 21 Young Men's Christian Association (1,1,1,1)

Source: Parish Pump

So what is the occult, anyway?

The primary definition of the word ‘occult’ is ‘hidden’ or ‘concealed’. The specifically religious meaning of the word covers a wide range of mystical phenomena. Broadly speaking, the following religious practices are identified as ‘occult’.

Spiritism: this is the belief that people can make contact with those who have died. They do so through a medium, in order to receive revelations from the spirit world.

Clairvoyance: this is the belief that some people have powers that are ‘extrasensory’ – enabling them to see what cannot be seen by our ordinary five senses.

Fortune-telling: this is the practice of predicting the future by ‘reading’ tea leaves, palms, tarot cards, etc.

Astrology: This is the belief that the future can be foretold by studying the relative positions of the sun, moon, stars and planets in the sky. ‘Horoscopes’ offer people advice on their lives, based on these astrological calculations.

Witchcraft: A witch is someone who claims the ability to contact and use powers from the unseen world. They tend to call themselves ‘white’ witches or ‘black’ witches.

The Bible takes the occult seriously, and says it is evil. It utterly forbids anyone to dabble in it, calling it ‘detestable’. Just some of the verses that mention it are:

‘Let no one be found among you... who practises divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcrafts, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults with the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord.’ (Deuteronomy 18:10-12)

“The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity... idolatry and witchcraft.... I warn you that those who live

like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.” (Galatians 5:19)

Isaiah 47:11-15 contains a long list of all the occult practices for which the Lord will judge Babylon. Revelation 21:8 also condemns those who practise magic arts.

Instead, if we are worried about our lives, and want to know what to do, the Bible again and again urges us to turn to God. He has promised “never to leave you or forsake you”. We are to read the Bible, for it is God talking to us; and to pray – which is us talking to God, and waiting to hear from him.

As Paul summed it up: “All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the faith and correcting errors, for resetting the direction of a man’s life and training him in good living....” (2 Timothy 3:16).

Source: Parish Pump

The Hallelujah Party (Celebrating Light)

On: Saturday 31st October

Between: 6 -8 p.m.

At: The Tiger Hall, All Saints Church, Lindfield

All Children from age 5+years welcome.

There will be fun, games a magic show fire works.

And a sausage and chips supper!!



Glynde

“A man needs a little madness” said Zorba the Greek; the BB has a track record of going a bit mad at camp, and this year at Glynde was as exuberant as any previous year.

Consider the worship sessions: apart from singing, and clapping, there was dancing – and even hugging! Whatever next! The worship leader, Bryan Pickard, assisted by Eduardo, a young Brazilian guitarist, got the lads really enthused and excited about praising the Lord: at times it became quite “charismatic”, and I even joined in some of the dancing myself! We just pray that some of this rubs off on the Boys, and they realise that Christianity is a real live experience. Bryan made some good theological points too, in simple language for youngsters, about atheism being a non-starter.

We had problems with suspected swine flu, and the weather was none too good, but we coped, and the sport and excursions were as enjoyable as ever. I was team leader of “Diggers”, the camp Company which won the laurel crown: the prize for the winners of the sports competition.

Back in the summer session, two of our Boys, Matthew Dew and Danny Walker, won medals in the Harrier Cross Country, and Danny also won a medal for coming first in his age group in the 400 metres at the athletics held at Withdean Stadium.

Allen Pippard’s enthusiasm for camping led him to organise a short break for the Boys at Blackland Farm on a hot weekend in June, and the lads certainly had a whale of a time with games and kayaking on the adjacent reservoir.

Anchors and Juniors have also had some good times during the summer, but we are restricted on what we can offer these age groups because of staff shortages, and would welcome offers of help with them. The Boys are there, but we need adult helpers to enable us to realise their potential.

Geoffrey Cocksedge

Concern over violence in Pakistan

The Archbishop of Canterbury and the General Secretary of the Methodist Church in Britain are among church leaders expressing deep concern over violence against Christians in Pakistan.

In recent weeks many acts of violence have been committed against Christians in Pakistan, including the burning of 47 homes in the village of Korian and 100 homes in Gojra City. More than 290 families have been made homeless and at least 9 people have died in the violence, which has arisen as a result of religious tensions between Christians and Muslims.

Give a Bible – change a life

Life was tough for Kelvin. He had always struggled at school in Ghana's capital Accra, until he read a book which changed all that. He read stories about people who persevered when times were equally hard. The book was the Bible and through reading it Kelvin discovered a living God who was there to help him.

Kelvin is one of thousands of schoolchildren who've now been given a Bible by Bible Society of Ghana, which wants to see a whole generation of children growing up reading it. It hopes to give a million Bibles to children across the country by 2011.

Brian Dacre, Head of Supporter Relations at Bible Society in Swindon, says: 'Funding this project has been made possible thanks to the amazing generosity of our supporters. Some 500,000 Bibles have now been given to schoolchildren who otherwise had no chance of getting one.

'After reading his copy Kelvin began asking for God's help every day and found that school was easier. It's an amazing story of how interaction with God, through the Bible, impacted on one child's life.'

The campaign has been backed by the First Lady of Ghana, Ernestina Naadu Mills, who has been a long time supporter of Bible Society. Mrs Mills handed out the 500,000th Bible to be donated on a visit to a church in the country.

Source: Parish Pump

KING & SAINT

If there is one date that nearly everyone knows it is 1066 when the Normans invaded England, William the Conqueror became king when he invaded the country after Edward the Confessor died.

Edward was King of England but he wasn't like most rulers of the time; he was a peace-loving man of God who put all his energies into building churches. His most famous church was Westminster Abbey. It was built on marshy land by the River Thames in London and it was Edward's chief delight to watch the building grow. And when he died he was buried in his new church – as lots of kings and queens and famous people have been in the centuries which followed.

Lots of rulers have nicknames: Edward I was the Hammer of the Scots, Richard I was the Lion-heart, all very warlike. But Edward was called the Confessor because of the way he lived his life witnessing to his belief in Christ. So each year on 13th October we remember the king who was a saint.

NICKNAMES or NOT?

All of these are nicknames of real rulers from the past – apart from 2 which I put in to confuse you. Which ones are made up?

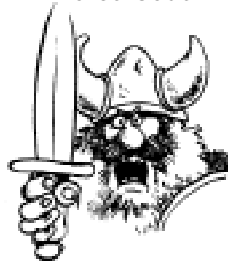
Charles the Bald
Eric Bloodaxe
Ivailo the Cabbage
Boleslaw the Curly
William the Beetroot
Pippin the Short
Niall of the Nine Hostages
Glun the Green
Ragnar Hairy Britches
Louis the Stammerer

What do Eric the Red and Winnie the Pooh have in common?

They have the same middle name.

What did Vikings use for secret messages?

Norse Code.



Answers: all real, however unlikely, apart from William the Beetroot and Glun the Green (there was a Viking king of Dublin called Glun the Iron Knee but I don't think he was into recycling).

The back page

- ACROSS**
- 1 Dare
 - 3 Cherubim
 - 9 Son Tohu
 - 10 Yield
 - 11 Ranch
 - 12 Enlist
 - 14 Baalah of Judah
 - 17 Edward
 - 19 Sheol
 - 22 Media
 - 23 Open air
 - 24 Apostasy
 - 25 Eton
- DOWN**
- 1 Describe
 - 2 Run in
 - 4 Household gods
 - 5 Royal
 - 6 Blessed
 - 7 MIDI
 - 8 Joshua
 - 13 Children
 - 15 Added to
 - 16 Jasper
 - 18 Await
 - 20 Exalt
 - 21 YMCA

Answers to the † Word on page 22.

Fruit is the evidence of the root.