

GoodNEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2009

Alex Hall in Tanzania



PLUS...

- Lots of information about upcoming events
- Fun pages for the young and young at heart
- Charles Martin writes about Assisted Suicide





Messy Harvest Saturday

September 26th 4:15^{PM}

Messy Harvest a family celebration
at Lindfield United Reformed Church
of the good things God has given us

It is overflowing with craft, laughter
and plenty of mess for all ages

Join us at 4:15pm for an hour of
creation and a short celebration
followed by food

*Come and
thank
God for
all THAT!*



www.lindfieldurc.org.uk



With September, a new year in the life of the church begins. Summer holidays are a memory (I hope not too wet a memory!) and it's back to work again with a vengeance.

With work in mind, let me explain why I've changed my day off from a Monday to a Friday. Leaving aside the rumour that ministers only work on a Sunday, I have made the change for a number of reasons.

It allows me, from time to time, to attend the weekly Prayer Meeting at 9.30 am on a Monday and it also frees up Monday evening. I can give more time to the Boys' Brigade. In addition, people who are at work during the day and who wish to see me privately, will be able to do so. Junior BB runs from 6.15 pm to 7.30 pm. I shall therefore be available at Ryecroft, from then on. It's probably best to make an appointment, but please feel free to come. In fact, feel free to see me at any time, but the best opportunities are Monday evening (as I have explained) and Thursday morning at Pop-in.

The mention of work makes me count my blessings. I have never been unemployed and am never likely to be. That is not true, however, for other members of the fellowship. The effects of redundancy have hit families in both our congregations – at Balcombe and at Lindfield. It's a cruel thing to be told that you're not needed any more. As well as the shock of losing your job, financial insecurity can cause people to become deeply depressed.

The Bible says that we must "bear one another's burdens" and there are various ways to do that in this instance. There are sources of practical advice and help for people affected by redundancy and we can help them to access them. We can pray for them and with them, but perhaps the most effective way we can "bear one another's burdens", is by making sure everyone in the fellowship, from the youngest to the oldest, is valued and important.

When you lose your job, you fall out of the swim of things. If you are unemployed for a long time there is a danger that you will begin to lose your skill. Your confidence in yourself as a person will diminish and while the rest of the world goes on its way, earning money, fulfilling its ambitions, you are on the side-lines, redundant.

In God's family no one is redundant. It doesn't matter how old or young, how well or ill-educated, how talented or limited – none of those things matter to God. He loves and can use anyone who is ready to commit their lives to Him, because the measure of the worth of a human life to Him cannot be calculated. He was ready to pay any price to buy us back from sin. That means that you, whoever you are and however the world sees you (or you see yourself) are of infinite value to the Creator of the Universe. Never forget it!

Your Pastor and friend,
Charles S. Martin

GoodNEWS

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Editorial

September is the
time when summer
ends and we head
back into routines and
business, so in the magazine
we have opportunities to
look back over the activities
of the summer, and also to
anticipate the start up of
meetings and events.

It is so exciting to have our
young people contributing to the
magazine, and we thank Alex
Hall for telling us about his time
in Tanzania. Katie Cookney also
writes reflecting about some of
the things she has learnt during
her time in India. It is such an
encouragement to us all to see
our young people growing in their
faith and wanting to share it!

In addition to his ministers
letter, Charles Martin has written
two further articles; one on
the serious matter of assisted
suicide, and the Christian
perspective on that, and in the
other article, he reveals more of
his murky past!

The rest of the magazine
seems to be taken up with news
of pending events, such as Messy
Church, Christianity Explored,
and the starting up again of our
regular meetings. So, once again
I would recommend having a diary
to hand as you read this month's
magazine!

There are also some pages
for the children, and the young at
heart to enjoy.

Val, Editor





Give thanks....

When it comes to September, it is almost like the start of the year for our family. We come back from our long stint away in the States, and the children and I all start a new school year. Whilst we are away, we are able to spend time reconnecting as a family and we always thank God for this precious time.

When we arrive home, it is wonderful to see all our friends and family again. We thank God for this time to reconnect our relationships with those important to us.

September is also an important time for our young people. Some of our older teens head off to University, either for the first time or to start their next year of study. Our younger children are starting a new term, and some may also be starting new schools.

As we end September our thoughts are directed towards our Harvest celebrations. A tradition, which reminds us of God's goodness in providing for us.

Let us consider all these points this month in Prayer.

Thank God for the times of reflection and recuperation we have had over the summer period whilst away on holidays.

Rejoice in your relationships with friends and family. For the support and love they give.

For our young people. We remember those that are moving away to University or to new schools. Be with them during the early days when things maybe strange and confusing. We also pray for those young people heading back to familiar environments, but in a new school year.

And finally we thank God for the Harvest. For God's provision for us at all times. We pray for those that are less fortunate than ourselves.

'Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever.' Psalm 136 v 1

Zoe McQuillin

Call To Prayer

There will be the monthly Church Prayer Evening on **Thursday, 24th September** at **8pm**. If you are part of the Church Family here at LURC, then this is YOUR PRAYER MEETING; an opportunity for us all to come together as a family of God's people, to bring to Him our praise, prayers and petitions. Look out for further details in the Notice Sheet. There is a well known saying, but I'm sure a true one, that a Church that prays together stays together. Let us make sure that is the case for us here.

Tanzania

09 Trip

This July a team from All Saints and HH Baptist church headed out to Tanzania to work with people in the Diocese of Ruaha. Heading up our team was Derek and Ruth Osborn who, having experience in doing these trips, organised for us an awesome 3 weeks out in Africa!

For the bulk of our trip we were based at Neema Crafts in Iringa town, about 9 hours on the bus from Dar es Salaam the country's capital. The craft centre, run by British missionaries Andy and Suzy Hart, provides vocational training to deaf and disabled people in all sorts of craft manufacture. Unlike similar non-governmental organisation projects, Neema then provides long term employment for those trained.

The stories of those working at the craft centre were incredible. Disabled people aren't given the time of day by most people in Africa, so the centre's work was quite extraordinary and counter cultural, and importantly raising the status and respect for all of the disabled community. They were being taught how to weave, make pottery, create jewellery and construct solar panels to name but



a few of the vocations. They also have a shop and café in the centre, which draws people in from the local area to see all their work. Local employers coming to see the work of the centre were amazed to see disabled people involved in all the craft work, some even vowing to employ disabled people at their own establishments!

During our first week we were tasked with completing an unfinished room within the craft centre – cleaning it out and giving it a nice lick of paint! Aside from that we were creating some signs for the shop and café area where they were eventually going to have a new internet room, getting involved in their bible studies, helping with some of the craft making, and generally getting to know the people who work there.

That weekend we had a couple of days off to head down to Ruaha National Park. During the weekend we had two game drives in the park seeing all sorts of animals and getting perhaps a bit too close for comfort to the lions! It was an awesome experience and watching



sunrise over the bush the Saturday morning is something I'll never forget! On the Sunday we headed off to church and were thoroughly out-sung (is that a word?!) by our African counterparts, but David gave an impromptu sermon on our behalf that went down really well – lots of ululating!

Week two and we were back at Neema Crafts but this time running a kids club! The Diocese had cited this as a much needed form of outreach to the community so for 4 days we had kids from all over and from every background (White, Black, English, Swahili, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Rastafarian!) coming to the craft centre

for some fun times, Christian teaching and games. On the first day we had something like 50 children but by the last day of the club there were over 100 coming through the doors! It was a little manic but a really enjoyable experience, and hopefully we may have left God's message with at least a few of them. At the end of the week we lost three of our team to work commitments back home – so we escorted Onome, Siân and Anna down to the bus station for the long trip back to the UK!

Truly tired after that week! But on Saturday we were off again but this time to FISCH – Feed Iringa Street Children. Every Saturday they'd have



Feature – Alex Hall in Tanzania

loads of homeless children come into two locations in Iringa where they can meet, have some games and get a meal. Some of these children are as young as five and a high proportion of them have HIV. This was possibly the most emotional experience of our trip – what start do these children get in life? But at least we had a chance to contribute something, playing games with them and keeping them entertained while the meal was being cooked! Leaving that place knowing the children would have to endure another week at risk on the streets was difficult.

Another Sunday, another church! More worryingly, this weekend we were breaking up into three groups of four to go to different churches which meant the chance of having to do some impromptu things in the service was high! Myself, Claire, David and Sarah all went to a small village outside Iringa and after initially thinking our taxi driver was lost we wound up amongst mud huts in a church made out of tarpaulin

and small wooden benches. It was nothing short of incredible to see and I feel thoroughly privileged to have joined them for a service there. We sang a few songs for them...they sang a few more for us and David pulled another sermon out the hat! It was a really fun experience – perhaps the highlight of the trip for me.

Words are running short, so to wrap the last week up in a paragraph – we were doing lots of odds and ends in the craft centre and joining in with their bible studies. Meanwhile, Derek and David were doing business training for another project in the diocese.

Going to Tanzania is something I'm never going to forget – please come ask questions if you want to know more because I've just scratched the surface here! Thank you to all of you who were looking at our blog (<http://iringa09.blogspot.com>) and praying for us – it was much appreciated by the whole team.

Alex Hall



Through the window

Saturday 17th October 2009

On occasions I have stood at the church doorway whilst the service has been going on (I was late again) and seen curious people look in and then go about their business.

I've felt that I should go up to them and ask if they would like to come in but sadly I have never done so.

Therein lies the background to the title of the Saturday evening anniversary event.

Through the window.

The event commences at 7.00pm so that we do not have a late finish and enables all ages to join in the celebration

We have three themes:

- Our heritage - Today - The future

We will convey this in drama, music and song plus the preaching of the Word. Many members of the church are taking part but we still need some more people to take speaking roles. If you can help please contact Peter Swann.

Hopefully, there will be something for everybody and if you want to dress in period costume or wear a hat for the heritage section then you are welcome to do so.

Following the event there will be a chance for a chat over a cup of tea and a bun.

The Lord has been good to Lindfield United Reformed Church and we have much to be thankful for. Why not invite a friend to join with us in celebration.

Peter Swann

God is working His purpose out...

As material comes in for the Anniversary Exhibition these words from the old hymn keep coming to mind. But perhaps I should be humming "Lord for the Years, Your Love....". However, it needs a choir or congregation to sing this rousing hymn together - and that is the point. "Lindfield Past and Present" is a combined effort.

Brian, Sue and I are assembling the display but many people have got out their albums or gone up in their lofts looking for photos, etc and others have dug deep in their memories for oral history to contribute. This Church is now - as it has been through the last 200 or so years - shared experience.

Do come to the concert "Through the Window" on 17th October at 7.00pm and look in and see the "Lindfield URC Past and Present" exhibition 14th-17th October 10.00am -12.30pm. See you there.

Rosemary Davies

Savannah Education Trust

For residents of Lindfield we could do no better than point you to the excellent centrefold article in the August edition of 'Lindfield Life' magazine which featured local couple, Paul and Karen Ramsbottom and their daughters, Lilly and Ella, and the inspiring story of how a 400 place primary school in northern Ghana came into being in 2006 through their vision, the cooperation of local leaders, government and Baptist churches in Ghana, the prayers and giving of Christians in the UK and God's leading and provision.

But if you perchance didn't read the feature then come and meet them for yourselves, together with fellow founders of the Savannah Education Trust, at our Family BBQ on Saturday, 5th September at the church. A departure from our normal Mission Supper format, the BBQ will allow our children to see and hear for themselves how kids in Ghana fare in a typical school day, and explore 'hands on' a little of the country's culture. Starting at 4:30pm and finishing by 7pm, the event will include an audio visual presentation by Paul, with contributions from other members of the team. Tickets are available from either John Barling, Fiona

Flett or Ron Goodenough.

Throughout September our missions giving will be earmarked for the Trust, a registered UK charity, to support not just the present school at Bagri which is in the desperately poor and remote north western province of Ghana (where 1 in 5 children fail to reach their 5th birthday), but to help in just a small way the foundation of a second school in the village of Pavuu. Further information will be displayed on the Missions Board in the church concourse where special envelopes are also available for monetary gifts to the Savannah Education Trust. Donations may also be Gift Aided.



Photo courtesy of the Savannah Education Trust

To read the full inspiring story go to
www.savannaheducationtrust.org

Children from the village of Pavuu in northern Ghana will soon have their own local Primary School. See the September Missions spot featuring the Savannah Education Trust.

John Barling – for Missions Group
barling@infrapave.co.uk



THE RIGHT TIME

It is harvest time now. I suppose we think of harvesting wheat, corn, things like that; but do you think of sugar? A lot of the sugar we use in this country is home produced. It comes from sugar - beet which is harvested at this time of year. The roots are taken to factories where they are washed, sliced and crushed. The juice is carefully heated in a huge container and at exactly the right moment a tiny spoonful of powdered sugar is added to the boiling liquid. This tiny amount turns the whole batch into sugar crystals. The right thing and the right time coming together to make a complete change.

Moses told God that he wasn't very good at anything; others were much better, more clever than him. He said 'please send someone else' (Exodus, chapter 4) but God's reply was 'I will be with you'. With God everything is possible. God helps the impossible change into the possible – and God uses the most unlikely people and things to do it.

SWEET WORDS

Can you rearrange the letters to find the sweet things? Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. LLLYO
2. DUGEF
3. CEIRQULIO
4. ETFOEF
5. CLOTACHEO
6. LYJEL ABBY
7. ATREES GEG
8. MIPPETPENR
9. EIC MAREC
10. HALARMSLOWM



Why did the chewing gum cross the road?

Because it was stuck to the chicken!

What do bees chew?

Bumble gum!

What's a toad's favourite sweet?

Lollihops!



ANSWER: 1.lolly 2.fudge 3.liquorice
4.toffee 5.chocolate 6.jelly baby
7.Easter egg 8.peppermint 9.ice cream
10.marshmallow

Harvest

September is the month when traditionally the end of the harvest is celebrated and this September is no exception. So, as a church we will be having our harvest Celebration on the Weekend of 26th-27th September.

First of all some fairly trivial facts about Harvest:

- Did you know
- that the word harvest originates from the Anglo-Saxon word 'haerfst'. For those amongst us who's Anglo-Saxon is a bit rusty it means; autumn - a time when the harvesting of the crops came to an end.
 - this period of time usually falls around the time of the autumnal equinox which is around the 20th September.
 - harvest celebrations have been around world wide in various forms for centuries.
 - it wasn't until 1843, when Rev. Robert Hawker from Cornwall invited the Farmers and all those involved with the land and harvest to come into his church for a service of celebrations and thanksgiving to God for the harvest, that the now 'traditional' Church based harvest began.

For us in the West the harvest time is an opportunity to thank God for the abundance of His material provision to us throughout the past years and indeed it is right and proper to do so. Whilst we celebrate and give thanks we could use this Harvest time to consider how we use God's incredible provision of food for us.

So here are some rather more sobering statistics from the World Bank Development (Indicators 2008);

20% of the world richest consume 76.5% of the world's resources

60% of the middle band of wealth consume 21.9% of the world's resources

20% of the world's poorest consume 1.5% of the world's resources.

Recent research apparently based on Government statistics, for a radio 4 programme gave the following information;

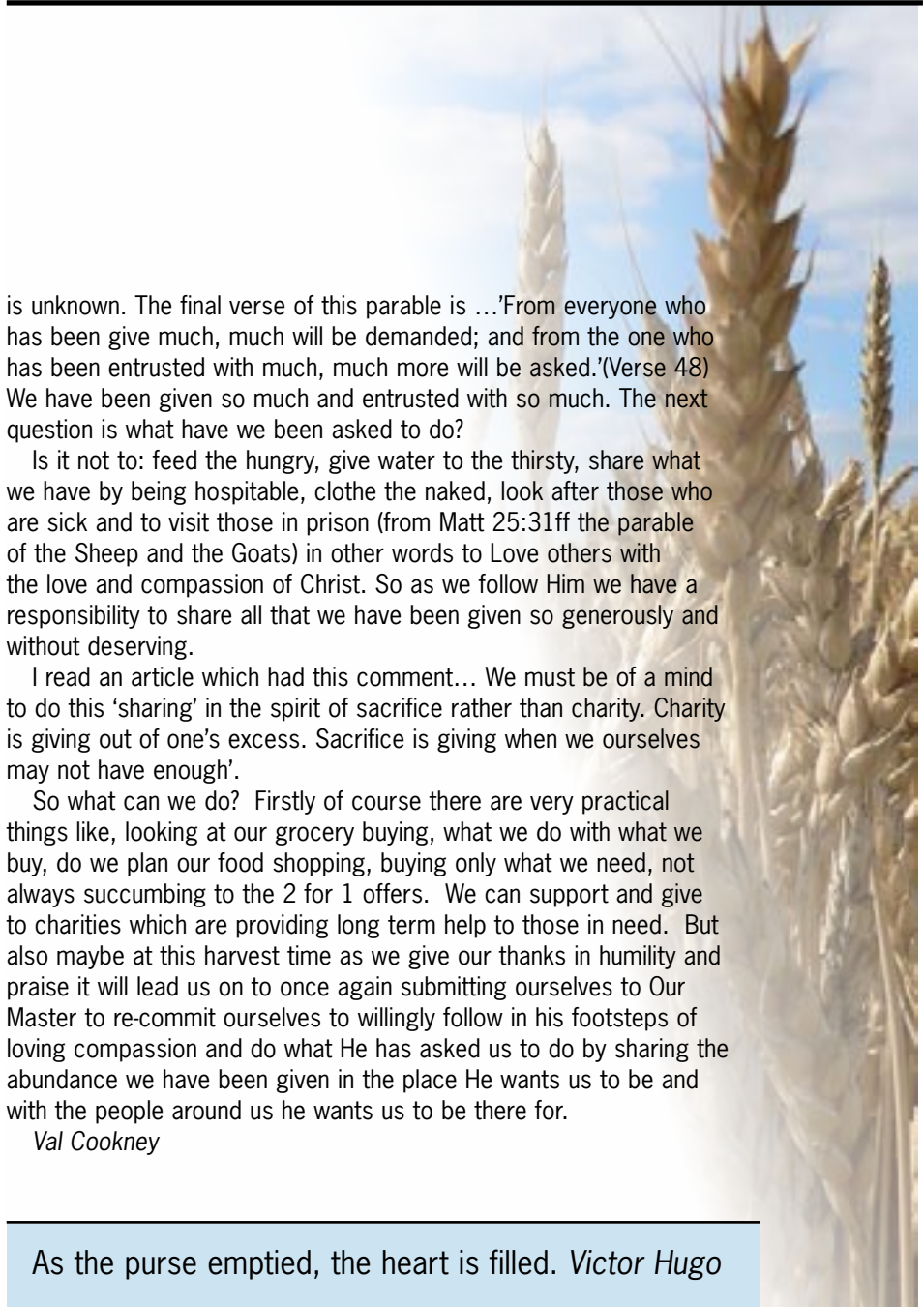
- in the UK £20bn worth of food is discarded because it is either left to rot in the fields, because it doesn't fit the supermarkets standard, or binned as it has gone passed it's sell by date. That's about £420 per family per year!
- approximately a third of the food we buy is thrown away whilst it is still edible.

Lord Haskins, the former chairman of Northern Foods and a Labour adviser on rural affairs, said, "This reflects the worst side of us as consumers. We have built a society where we think food is cheap and can be thrown away. We have eyes bigger than our stomachs and buy too much. We eat too much and are too lazy or ignorant to do anything with the leftovers. Food is thrown away because we are obsessed with sell-by dates. Just think of the energy that goes into producing, distributing this food. There will be two to three billion more people to feed on the planet in the next 30 years without the land or water to produce their food. If the rest of the world adopts our behaviour, then the world will have real problems."

The Church World Service quotes that... "the planet is producing enough food... but 800 million people in the world go hungry."

Now I tend to be wary of statistics but even given the vagaries of statistics these are staggering numbers. If you remember the statistic that we were recently given in church that 1 in 5 people live on less than 50p a day.

Looking at these statistics made me think around 2 areas of my life; firstly am I using the amazing provision God has given me wisely and carefully. Secondly, though, it made me question again, my attitude towards those who do not have access to this abundance. Jesus' parable in Luke 12 comes to mind. He is talking of servants of the Master who need to be ready at all times and doing all that he has asked to be done. Why? Because the time of The Masters return



is unknown. The final verse of this parable is ...'From everyone who has been give much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.'(Verse 48) We have been given so much and entrusted with so much. The next question is what have we been asked to do?

Is it not to: feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, share what we have by being hospitable, clothe the naked, look after those who are sick and to visit those in prison (from Matt 25:31ff the parable of the Sheep and the Goats) in other words to Love others with the love and compassion of Christ. So as we follow Him we have a responsibility to share all that we have been given so generously and without deserving.

I read an article which had this comment... We must be of a mind to do this 'sharing' in the spirit of sacrifice rather than charity. Charity is giving out of one's excess. Sacrifice is giving when we ourselves may not have enough'.

So what can we do? Firstly of course there are very practical things like, looking at our grocery buying, what we do with what we buy, do we plan our food shopping, buying only what we need, not always succumbing to the 2 for 1 offers. We can support and give to charities which are providing long term help to those in need. But also maybe at this harvest time as we give our thanks in humility and praise it will lead us on to once again submitting ourselves to Our Master to re-commit ourselves to willingly follow in his footsteps of loving compassion and do what He has asked us to do by sharing the abundance we have been given in the place He wants us to be and with the people around us he wants us to be there for.

Val Cookney

As the purse emptied, the heart is filled. *Victor Hugo*

September church diary

2nd

Wednesday 8.00pm Church Meeting

3rd

Thursday House Groups
(Christianity Explored begins
at 51, Compton Rd)

5th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at All Saints

6th

Sunday 9.30am All Age Service
and Communion –
the Pastor
11.00am The Pastor
6.30pm Jenny Martin

9th

Wednesday 12.30pm Lunch Fellowship

10th

Thursday 8.00pm Church Meeting

11th

Friday 12.30pm Lunch Fellowship

12th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at All Saints

13th

Sunday 9.30am Revd. Michael
Davies
11.00am Revd. Michael
Davies
(In celebration of Michael's Golden Jubilee
of Ordination)
6.30pm Evening Communion
– the Pastor

18th

Thursday House Groups

19th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at All Saints

20th

Sunday 9.30am David Jones
11.00am David Jones
6.30pm The Pastor –
Healing Service in
the church

22th

Tuesday 7.45pm In Touch

23rd

Wednesday Afternoon
Fellowship
7.30pm Elders Meeting

24th

Thursday 8.00pm Church Prayer
Meeting

26th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at All Saints
9.00am Church Decoration

27th

Sunday 9.30am Harvest Festival -
the Pastor
11.00am The Pastor –
Communion
12.15pm Ploughmans Lunch
6.30pm Mike Gardiner

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:-

September

6th	Donald Nisbet
13th	Philip Wren
20th	Charles Martin - Harvest Thanksgiving
27th	To be arranged

Flower Rota

Arranging

Distributing



September

6th	Jean Durrant	Iris Bingham
13th	Zoe MacQuillin	Sue Tester
20th	Audrey McKee	Jacqueline Wood
27th	Harvest Festival	Barbara Shepherd

October

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

Sunday services explained...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HAYWARDS HEATH LIONS CLUB



JUMBLE SALE

King Edward Hall, Lindfield

SATURDAY, 10th October, 12.00 (Midday)

Please bring jumble to the hall on the day from 9.00 am
or for collection call 01273 890777
or email
jumble@haywardsheathlionsclub.org.uk

World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Margaret Gomme is holding a coffee morning as part of the "World's Biggest Coffee Morning" for Macmillan Cancer Support on Friday morning 25th September from 10.00am to 12.00pm at 17 Finches Park Road. In addition to tea or coffee, there will be Greetings Cards for Sale, Home Made Cakes and of course the Railway Shed will be open for visitors.

Depression

In the Autumn I am going to run a short course on the subject of depression. Most of us, at some time in our lives will go through a period of depression. For some this will pass very quickly and may only be a time of intense sadness over some particular happening, for others, however depression may last a long time and be very debilitating.

Christians have particular problems with depression since it seems to contradict their faith so stand in need of specialised help. The course I am offering deals with this as it is produced by an evangelical Christian GP who himself has been depressed. His name is Dr John Lockley, and each session will consist of a videoed seminar on the subject. Each session also includes

on the video the testimony of a former depressed Christian.

The course goes carefully through the causes of depression, the treatment and the relationship that the Christian faith has to this. It lasts for four weeks.

Having just watched all four sessions, I can confidently say that the course is equally valuable for those who have or have had depression and those who are trying to help someone who has. All are welcome, even those who are just interested in the subject.

When it has been decided when to run the course, details will be given out at church. The venue will be Ryecroft. If you are interested, please give your name to Jenny [Martin].

Learning; a testimony

Learning is something that we never stop doing. This is particularly true for us, as Christians. No matter how old or how young we are, God is still able to teach us, and there is infinitely more that we can learn about Him. Our learning doesn't just stop when we leave church on a Sunday. It is not just a private tuition between the Almighty and us. Once we have been taught, we are expected to pass it on, to encourage others that they too might be able to grow and deepen their relationship with God.

So, I ask myself the question; what have I learnt? I don't presume to be an expert; I know I don't have all the answers, and I'm very good at not putting things into practice because they might not end up how I would hope. But one thing I do know is that God has given me an experience through the year I've just had; living in India for six months, going around to different churches and schools, teaching,

preaching, and sharing. In all that I have had to do, God has taught me a lot of lessons. The greatest, the most challenging, and the most rewarding of these has been to begin to learn the importance of spending time with God. I say 'to begin to learn' because it still feels like only skimming the surface of what there is to learn, and of what's to come!

As with any friendship and relationship, in order for it to be maintained, strengthened, and deepened, we need to work at our relationship with God. In the same way that we meet friends, chat with them, spend time with them, we need to spend time with God.

We can do this in a number of different ways; through prayer, through reading the bible, through meditation, and also through being with other Christians. Now, just to clarify, what I mean by meditation, is definitely not the Buddhist meditation of emptying your mind, but rather the biblical

meditation, which is to fill your mind with God, and God's word. Like our earthly relationships, we need to spend time with God in order to deepen the relationship and to grow spiritually.

It is very easy to say all this, but to put it into practice can be a real struggle, a real battle, at times. Sometimes I find myself so caught up in having to set aside time to pray, or to read the bible, or whatever, that I miss the point of doing those things; to meet with God. Instead of praising God, and thanking God, I come to Him with a list that I have to work through, and I leave no room for God to speak to me. And I am certain that I am not alone in this regard! We can pray, and we can read the bible out of obligation and routine, rather than out of desire to get to know our Lord. We come to these things for our own sake, not God's, and we can be so focused on our agenda, that we don't hear God speaking.

But, if we only allow room for God! If we just seek Him,

not just in our prayers, and our devotions, but in everything that we do! How incredible would that be? I feel over this last year I have had a glimpse, a taster of what my life could be if I really, wholeheartedly placed God first, dead centre, in my life. And I have to be honest; I am hooked! I can't envisage any better way of living than to live on God's terms, and not my own. It is scary, yes terrifying in fact, and it comes at a huge cost; everything! It is harder than any other way, but it is worth every single moment!

I have done things I never thought I was capable of. I mean, I went from someone who broke out in a cold sweat just thinking about saying something up front, to someone who absolutely loves it! I have seen, visibly, God working in my life, and in others, and most remarkably, in whole communities!

So, now perhaps I come to the crux of what I am trying to say. The whole reason for sharing things, of testimonies, is so that other people can be

Learning more about God

encouraged and can learn too, that maybe God can use me to teach others. So now, it's over to you, and I invite you to take part with me in a challenge that God is presenting me with at this time.

I find that September is always a time of change and transition, so what better time of the year to take a moment, or hopefully more than just a moment, to evaluate/re-evaluate your spiritual life... in short how is your relationship with God?

Ask yourself these questions:

Do I read the bible just out of habit?

Do I just read the passages I like and miss out the harder, more confusing sections?

Do I read the bible, already knowing what it will say?

When I pray, is it just a list of things to be ticked off?

Do I leave room for God to answer, or speak to me?

Is God part of my everyday life; when I am working, resting, shopping, gardening?

Do I limit God?

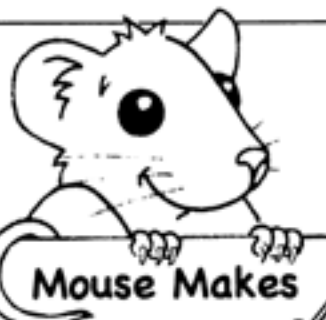
Do I actively work at strengthening my relationship with God?

Let us encourage one another to walk closer and deeper with God.

“And we know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we can know the true God. And now we live in fellowship with the true God because we live in fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ. He is the only true God, and he is eternal life. Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts.” 1 John 5:20-21 NLT

“And so, God willing, we will move forward to further understanding” Hebrews 6:3 NLT

Katie Cookney



Mouse Makes

May the
peoples praise you,
O God, may all the
peoples praise you.

The land has yielded
it's harvest; and
God, our God has
blessed us.

Psalms 67:6



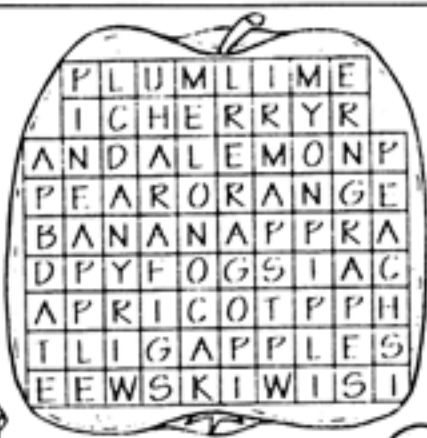
What's in the pot of jam?

Can you find...

- CHERRY • YAM • WINE • KIWI
- FIG • MELON • CHIPS • PEAR
- PLUM • LIME • APPLE • GRAPE
- PEACH • MANGO • ONION
- LYCHEE • LEMON
- ORANGE



A	P	P	L	E	M	O	N
L	E	K	I	W	I	N	E
Y	A	M	M	A	N	G	O
C	C	H	E	R	R	Y	R
H	H	P	L	U	M	O	A
E	I	E	O	N	I	O	N
E	P	A	N	K	F	I	G
Y	S	R	G	R	A	P	E



P	L	U	M	L	I	M	E
I	C	H	E	R	R	Y	R
A	N	D	A	L	E	M	O
P	E	A	R	O	R	A	N
B	A	N	A	N	A	P	P
D	P	Y	F	O	G	S	I
A	P	R	I	C	O	T	P
I	L	I	G	A	P	P	L
E	E	W	S	K	I	W	I

Can you find these fruit?

- PINEAPPLE • GRAPES • FIGS
- KIWI • MELON • PEACH • PIP
- CHERRY • PEAR • PLUM • LIME
- ORANGE BANANA • APRICOT
- APPLES • DATE



All good gifts around us are
sent from heaven above,
then thank the Lord, O thank
the Lord for all his love.



L	A	N	D	S	S	O	W
O	L	P	L	O	U	G	H
A	L	R	A	I	N	O	E
F	O	O	D	L	S	D	A
E	H	A	R	V	E	S	T
S	C	A	T	T	E	R	S
I	S	B	R	E	A	D	E

Find these words in the haystack:

- HARVEST PLOUGH FOOD
- SEED GOD WHEAT SUN
- SOIL RAIN BREAD
- SCATTER LAND SOW LOAF



Assisted Suicide

– a Christian Perspective

Should the law allow someone to assist another person to take their own life? It's a big question. No one can deny, that to see a loved one suffer agonies of terminal pain and not to be able to lessen it, is incredibly hard. To have the means of ending that pain, but to be prevented from using it, seems cruel indeed.

No one can deny either, the fear which must grow and grow in the mind of someone suffering from a degenerative condition like Motor Neuron Disease, as they contemplate the total loss of their faculties. While we may not approve of his decision, our hearts go out to the young man (and most especially to his parents) who decided to end his life in the clinic in Switzerland, after he had been totally incapacitated, as a result of an accident playing Rugby. Nevertheless, the Christian Faith stands out very clearly against assisted suicide, for one principal reason and that is the value it puts on human life.

Speaking on BBC Radio Four's programme "Sunday", after the House of Lords had given its latest ruling on the matter, the Bishop

of Exeter put it very simply. He said that if we accept that the only way of caring for someone is to kill them, what is the point of caring for them in the first place? It comes down to this – is human life a commodity, like a packet of meat you can buy from the supermarket?

The packet of meat has a sell-by date. After that time, it's useless and maybe even dangerous. It must be disposed of and certainly not consumed. Human life does not have a sell-by date. There is no point at which a human being can be disposed of.

Consider the consequence of the opposite point of view. If human life is indeed a commodity, there are hundreds of thousands of people who could be said to have gone beyond their "sell-by date". The old who cannot work and contribute to society any more, especially those who need round-the-clock nursing care, surely come into that category. So do some physically disabled people and those with learning disabilities. Very quickly, if we see human life in those terms, we open the way for all kinds of horrors.

The argument is made that our lives are our own to end when we choose and if, for some reason, we are not able to end them ourselves, then someone else should not be prosecuted if we ask them to end them for us. The flaw in that argument is that while we do indeed have control over our own lives, in the sense that we have the means to end them, we have no right to treat them as something which can be destroyed by choice. To do that, is to say that at some point, everyone's life passes its sell-by date. No one has the right to live when they are a drain on society, because they have to be cared for and you only care for someone or something that has value.

The advent of assisted suicide will not bring relief from pain or fear. It will bring closer the day when a human being can be disposed of because they are thought to be value-less. That will be the day when once more, humanity stands at the gates of Auschwitz.

Charles Martin

Family News

Golden Wedding

We send our love and warm congratulations to Michael and Rosemary Davies as they celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 19th September. In fact they have two reasons to rejoice, as Michael celebrates 50 years in the Ministry in October. "Well done thou good and faithful servant."

Wedding

Many congratulations to Dawn and Nick (Bingham) who have recently married up in Norwich. We pray that God will bless and minister to them as they set out on their lives together. Nick and Dawn are making their home here in Lindfield.

The Sick

We have a number of our Church family who are struggling with poor health at this time, some in hospital and some at home. Please do uphold those who are unwell in your prayers.

GoodNEWS Online

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

www.lindfieldurc.org.uk



Boys' Brigade

The Barnabas Trust runs Christian activity centres for young people, one of which is located at Halls Green near Sevenoaks. For a couple of years past, it has been the location for a weekend holiday for Juniors organised by the Brighton BB Battalion, and a group of our lads was among the 50 or so who went at the end of April.

The excellent accommodation provided a kitchen, dining room, games hall, dormitory block, and indoor swimming pool. Activities included an adventure course – in which some Boys were delighted to get thoroughly soaked and muddy! – model aeroplane making, and this year, for the first time, canoeing on the newly constructed boating lake, which the lads specially enjoyed. We were blessed with good weather, and came home thoroughly tired but happy.

The Company Section have taken part in scripture and drill competitions, and Alexander Pippard was the runner up in the Squad Medal Competition, where a Squad Commander drills a squad of up to 6 Boys. We also took part in the Athletics Championships at Withdean Stadium, at which a good

team effort brought us 3rd place, the highest position we have attained for some years. We are now into our summer programme: games most Monday evenings at Hickmans Lane Recreation Ground, together with wide games, bowling, paintballing, expedition training, and weekend camping, the Battalion Harriers Cross Country run, and, of course, summer camp at Glynde.

Rob Drake was our Chief Guest at our Display in early May, when we presented the first batch of the Discovery Badges, a new award for Boys who have served two years in the Company Section. The Roberts trophy is now for the best uniform of the session, and this year it was shared by Wesley Heyward and Thomas Hewitt; Wesley Heyward and Louis Haddrell were also given prizes for perfect attendance.

We are very much in need of staff for Juniors and Anchors, and if anyone can help, or knows of anyone who they think can help, we would like to know. The Boys are there, but the potential they represent can only be realised by adequate adult staff.

Geoffrey Cocksedge

Education is what is left over when you subtract what you have forgotten from what you have learned. Source: Parish Pump

Back to Church Sunday

27 September 2009

Back to Church Sunday
is five years old this
autumn. How it has grown!
Most denominations are now
involved, and the increased
attendances in participating
churches nationally have
surprised many - 36,000 new
people last year alone.

Of these, a small minority have continued to attend church, and a few churches have reported significant growth.

So – how does it work? Very simple: the emphasis is on individual Christians like you giving a personal invitation to people whom you know.

All the evidence suggests that this is the most effective way of getting people back into church. Many non-church people simply got out of the habit of going to church long ago; others have occasionally wondered what church is all about, but been hesitant to attend one on their own. Your invitation will give both of them a chance to try church

for themselves.

This autumn, churchgoers across the Church of England are set personally to invite up to half a million people to services on Back to Church Sunday, making the event one of the largest co-ordinated evangelism events shared across the Church in recent history.

Every one of the Church's 44 dioceses are taking part in the initiative this year. Churches will focus on extending an even warmer welcome than usual on the day, supported by 'Back to Church Sunday' resources such as special red 'welcome' T-shirts and subsidised 'party packs' of fairly-traded catering products, produced in partnership with Traidcraft.

Up to 16,000 Church of England churches could be taking part, joining congregations from Churches Together in Scotland, the Church in Wales, Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed churches nationwide,

Back to Church Sunday

Elim Pentecostal churches and Anglican churches in Australia, Argentina, New Zealand and Canada.

'Back to Church Sunday' began in Manchester in 2004, spread to Wakefield Diocese in 2005, nine dioceses in 2006, 20 in 2007, and 38 in 2008.

"The impact of Back to Church Sunday is not just measured in statistics; it is measured by the wonderful impact it has had on numerous individual lives," comments the Rt Revd Jonathan Gledhill, Bishop of Lichfield.

Source: Parish Pump

"You'd never believe it" Tales from a minister's murky past (part four)

Over the years, I have had several "telephone adventures". Apart from ringing a wrong number by accident and addressing a total stranger, whom I thought was my wife, as "Darling", there has been a whole number of embarrassing moments. Incidentally, the lady on the other end of the wrong number was quick to forgive me. She said "Please don't apologise. I love it when a man calls me 'darling' !"

Perhaps the most embarrassing moment, if not for me, then for the person on the other end of the line, was when a lady in the church I served near Gloucester thought that I was her son, being stupid. Apparently he was a jolly fellow who liked to pretend to be other people when he rang his mother and on this occasion, she thought I was him.

When I announced myself she replied "Oh stop it Robin ! You are a silly boy !" When I assured her that I was indeed her minister, she persisted "Robin, stop being naughty !" It took me a few minutes to persuade her that I was who I claimed to be, but in the end she was convinced. However, it was some time before her embarrassment wore off and I daresay Robin was given strict instructions to behave himself in future !

Charles Martin

Afternoon Fellowship

Have you ever been to a meeting of the Afternoon Fellowship? They meet Every 4th Wednesday of the month at 2.45pm in the church lounge.

The committee arranges a most interesting programme of great variety. This year has included speakers on the Canals of Britain, Clinic Work in The Gambia, Paintings of Sussex and a fascinating talk "In the steps of St.Paul" by a friend just returned from following Paul's route.

Last month we were treated to a second visit by Yvonne Nulty, a lady in her late eighties with an amazing memory and a delightful sense of humour! She gave us a glimpse of her Nursing Career. It was her first taste of communal living and she began her training in Christchurch, earning £40 per annum. Her worst job was putting missing false teeth back into a gentleman lying in the morgue! She was then privileged to obtain a place at Queen Charlottes Hospital to do her midwifery training. Her father gave her a present of a screwdriver so she could make her window open wider for late escapades.

She then did District Nursing and eventually became Sister at the Haywards Heath Hospital in 1955. Her next move was to Forest Row, where she did training and became an Advisor on Public Health and, eventually, Nursing Officer at the Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead. The last ten years before her retirement were in World Health.

The meetings are open to anybody, men and women, friends and neighbours. We can assure you of a warm welcome.

Barbara Shepherd

The Fellowship

Friendship

Every 4th Wednesday at 2.45pm (not December)

Ladies and Gentlemen

Lounge at the church

Outreach to friends and neighbours

Warm welcome to all

Stall for Bring and Buy

Happy meeting with friends

Interesting talks

Prayer time

There is no 't' in the word Fellowship but there is tea – and biscuits – at our meetings. The first of the new session is on Wednesday 23rd September at 2.45pm. This is our Annual General Meeting but do not be put off by this as it will be followed by a time of recalling 'Holiday Memories' Please come along and share with us some of your experiences – good bad, amusing and scary

Winifred Scopes

All Saints Church

Saturday 26th September

Horsham Chamber Choir singing
Brahms German Requiem
at 7.30pm.

Tickets available from
All Saints Office in the Tiger.
Telephone 482405

In Touch

Tuesday 22nd September

Any ladies, any age, are invited to join us for our next evening meeting at 7.45pm. Do come for an informal get-together, with coffee.

Lindfield Christian Care Home - Compton House

Following an unannounced inspection by the Care Quality Commission in May, Compton House has been given a 'Three-star Excellent' rating. This is the highest level rating that can be achieved and it reflects the excellent level of care provided at Compton House.

Excellent ratings are achieved when there is evidence of a sustained track record of delivery of good performance and a high level of commitment by all staff. The three-star rating is the result of a concerted team effort by every member of staff at Compton House.

For more, see the latest issue of **Lindfield Life**.

Kirsty Taylor, Chairman of the Trustees/ Stuart Marsh, URC Representative.

Church activities

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

- 9.30am Service for all the family, including crèche and Lighthouse (Junior church). (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:

Chris Comber 01444 482641

Stepping Stones:

Janet Goodenough
01444 417002

Transport:

Ray Smith 01444 484427

Zest Co-ordinator:

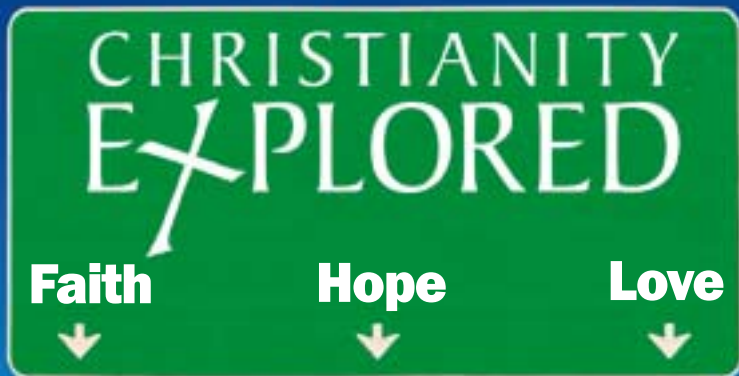
Clare Nibloe 01444 484683

Lighthouse (Junior church)

Co-ordinator:

Dawn Walters 01444 441601

Starting alternate Thursday Nights from September 3rd 2009



**An exploration of :
who Jesus is, why he came
and what it means
to follow him**

**You don't need to know anything about the bible
You won't be asked to read aloud, pray or sing
You can ask any questions you want**

**An informal and inspirational way to explore
together some of life's most important questions**



**Contact :
Charles Martin - 482098
www.lindfieldurc.org.uk**