

GoodNEWS

Lindfield URC's Village Magazine

Winter edition



New Year - New Faces



The importance of prayer



Read a best seller - the Bible



"Then you will know the
truth and the truth will
set you free."

John 8:32



Dear Friends...



The prospect of a new year seems to bring a kind of relief to some folk. They say “I shall be so glad when this year is over. I’ve had nothing but trouble. I really hope things will be better in the new year!”

While we all understand that life can deal some heavy blows – bereavement, financial insecurity and serious illness among them – there is absolutely no guarantee, that just because the digit on the calendar changes, our circumstances will alter in any way whatsoever.

I’m sorry if you find that depressing. I know that, in one sense, January is a new beginning, but in another, it’s just a continuation of what has gone before. Tragically, the “dark days after Christmas” can be a time when many people are intensely unhappy and there is an increase in the suicide rate. So rather than depressing you, I want to lift your spirits. I want to encourage you to stop hoping for 2010 to be somehow better than 2009. I want to give you the real reason for looking into the future with hope.

Just before He was about to leave them, Jesus made His disciples a promise. At first hearing, it must have appeared somewhat daunting, but along with the promise came an assurance. In St. John 16: 33, Jesus says

“I have told you these things, so that in Me, you will have peace. In this world you will have trouble, but take heart!, I have overcome the world.”

Some people have the daft idea that Christianity is a kind of emotional drug – a con-trick to make you feel better when actually things are getting worse. What nonsense! Nowhere in the New Testament can you find the claim that following Jesus makes life easy. Indeed the opposite is true, because He said that anyone who does follow Him must be ready to take up a cross. No, what Jesus promised the Disciples and what He promises us, is that in the midst of trouble (which comes to us no matter what the calendar says) if we stay close to Him, we will have peace. In this context, “peace” means “wholeness”, an all-embracing assurance that whatever happens, nothing can ever separate us from the love of God in Christ.

I trust you had a great time at Christmas and that 2010 brings you all you hope for; but if it doesn’t, take my advice. Don’t wait for the calendar to change. Whatever number the new year has attached to it – 2011, 12, 13

The only way to withstand the trouble that comes to us all from time to time, is to face it in the company of Jesus Christ. He said “The one who comes to Me, I will never turn away.” Why not take Him at His word ?

Your Pastor and friend,
Charles S. Martin.

GoodNEWS

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Editorial



Welcome to the winter Edition of the Lindfield United Reformed Church Magazine.

This month we have some
folk who are relatively new to
the Church Fellowship telling us
something about themselves as
well as Helen Hall talking about
being a New Elder.

Joan Bailey talks about the
recent Course on Depression.
There are two challenging
articles which encourage us all
to be Prayerers and also Readers
of the Bible this year, and to look
for the difference that doing this
will make to us both individually
and as a church.

We have more puzzles and
pages for the younger members.
There are more revelations of
a murky past and information
about the Big Church Day out
Event.

There will be no Edition in
February so we hope you have a
good winter and we will see you
in the spring.

Val



Thy Kingdom Come

Five young college students were spending a Sunday in London, so they went to hear the famed C H Spurgeon preach. While waiting for the doors to open, the students were greeted by a man who asked, “Gentleman, let me show you around. Would you like to see the heating plant of this church?” They were not particularly interested, for it was a hot day in July. But they didn’t want to offend the stranger, so they consented. The young men were taken down a stairway, a door was quietly opened, and their guide whispered, “This is our heating plant.” Surprised, the students saw 700 people bowed in prayer, seeking a blessing on the service that was soon to begin in the auditorium above. Softly closing the door, the gentlemen then introduced himself. It was none other than Charles Spurgeon.

Give me one hundred preachers that fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen; such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven on earth. God does nothing but in answer to prayer – John Wesley.

As we enter a New Year, let us commit ourselves to seeking God, praying earnestly that He will build His Kingdom in Lindfield and throughout the world.

Quotes from "A Barrel of Fun" J John and Mark Stibbe Monarch Books and E M Bounds Power through Prayer.

David Jones

New Year – New Faces



At the beginning of the Year we thought it would be good to ‘meet’ some people who are relatively new to the church. We have also asked Helen Hall to write for the magazine, because although she is not new to us in the church she has just taken on a new role as one of our Elders. Thank you to Elizabeth, Henderson and Christine and to Helen for their contribution.

Henderson & Christine McEwan

30 years ago we moved to Haywards Heath and joined a local church. For us it was important then as it is now to join with local Christians in worship and witness.

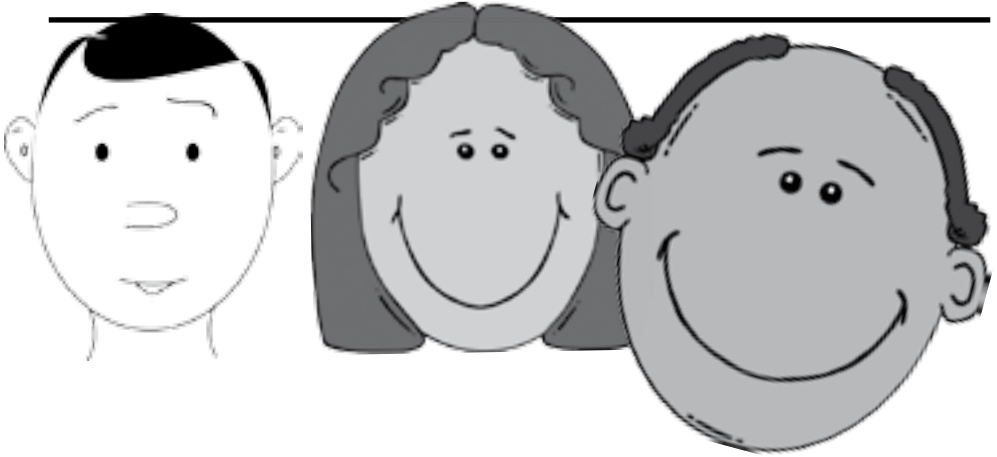
As it became apparent Christian witness was thin around our home location, we became involved with others, in

establishing a church. Over the years we saw this church grow, with activities for children and the whole family as it matured into a warm, welcoming fellowship of caring Christians.

Our two children grew up and Henderson's work created an opportunity to experience world cultures first hand. Initially Stockholm became the base for a springboard into Europe and the Americas, then a move to Beijing enabling him to work all over Asia. With frequent visits from “the family” our focus moved from Sussex to Scandinavia then to Asia and beyond.

Home remained in Haywards Heath but when Henderson landed back in England with less reason to travel, apart from holiday, we reviewed where we should be for worship and witness.

Our daughter Nicki and her



fiancé Chris found a particularly warm welcome with cups of coffee and generous offers of help when they enquired about holding their marriage service at the church in 2008. This was the trigger that led us to the LURC where some of our long standing friends worship, and where we too found a very warm welcome and importantly... sound Christian teaching.

LURC is undoubtedly a supportive church in many dimensions most of which we have still to discover.

Elizabeth Rice

What brought you to Lindfield URC?

I started coming when I was physically finding the walk up the High Street to All Saints difficult. I felt that God was leading me to this change as I live nearby, could retain my

independence and find a smaller church easier in many ways.

How has the Church helped you in your spiritual journey?

I have been greatly encouraged by the friendliness and welcoming attitude of so many. I enjoy the lively worship at the 9.30 service and being with all age groups. I can see the words on the screen better than from a hymn book. From the weekly sermons I come away uplifted, inspired to act on what I have heard and drawn more into the presence of God Himself.

How would you like to be able to help in the Church?

At my age I can no longer do anything very active, but I can pray for others in the church.



What would you like to see in the Church (or services) which you think would help you to continue to grow as a Christian?

Perhaps one older well-known hymn in the 9.30 worship time, as well as the very enjoyable modern songs? Maybe this does already happen sometimes!

Helen Hall

Me, an Elder?!

It was a big decision for me – made after a considerable spiritual journey - to agree to have my name put forward for nomination as an Elder. I feel inadequate in many ways but have been reassured that is good! I thank the Church family for having entrusted me with this role and pray I will serve you well.

God has done wonderful things through this Church family over the last 200 years and I do indeed thank Him for all those who have been, and those who still are, a part of that. I pray that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we will see more and more people wanting to witness Jesus' unconditional love for each and every person.

I consider it a privilege to serve as an Elder here – a challenge but a God-given and, I pray, a God-guided challenge.



From the Treasurer

At the October Church Meeting I promised to supply more details about the URC Ministry & Mission Fund. A summary of my report is now on the Lindfield URC website and hard copies may be obtained from me on request.

Rev Michael J. Davies, 13 Savill Road, Lindfield, RH16 3NY
T:01444 482024 E: michael.j.davies21@btinternet.com

Sad news

One of our more elderly Church members, **Rhoda Patterson**, died suddenly in November. She will be sadly missed by her fellow residents at Little Compton, and by those of us who have known Rhoda over many years. Rhoda had a firm faith, although she had not been well enough to attend services at the Church in recent times.

Please **remember** in your prayers the various members of our Church family who are unwell as we go into the new year.

Dorothy Forster would very much like to thank the Church for the gift of a poinsettia, two weeks before Christmas. It helped my husband and I to look forward to the season, with kind friends behind us. God Bless You All
Dorothy and Ian Forster

Rosemary & Michael Davies would like to thank all our friends at Lindfield URC for the kind messages, flowers and prayers during Michael's recent episode in the PRH, from which he now appears to be recovering well.

New Arrival

We offer our congratulations to Jenny and Phil Machell who have recently had a new Grandson, Harry. Harry's big brother, Charlie, is often part of our Light House on Sundays.

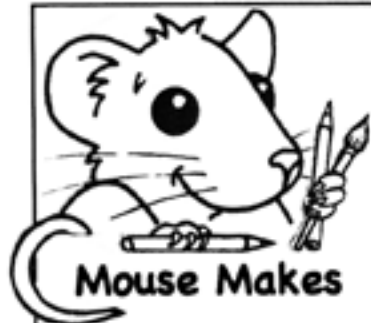
“You’d never believe it”

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

Young ministers, especially those who have been recently ordained, take their job very seriously. I suppose I had been wearing the dog-collar for about three weeks when I went to see one of the loveliest saints I’ve had the privilege to meet. Saint she may have been, but she had an impish sense of humour which, on this occasion, helped to bring me down to earth.

She was on my visiting list because she had just been discharged from hospital. She received me warmly and ushered me into her sitting room, inviting me to sit down. I chose an upright chair which was rather hard and angular. I suppose my expression told her how uncomfortable I was, because she immediately expressed her concern. “Are you alright on that chair?” she asked. “Yes thank-you” I replied. “I’m lovely!” “Oh I know you’re lovely” she said “But are you alright on that chair?!”

Charles Martin



Mouse Makes

The PSALMS are hymns of PRAYER and PRAISE to God.

"I will proclaim your greatness, my God and king; I will thank you for ever and ever. Everyday I will thank you; I will praise you for ever and ever."

Psalm 145:1-2

Glory to God



"How clearly the sky reveals God's glory! How plainly it shows what he has done."

Psalm 19:1

Cut out and keep these cards to help you to thank and praise God.

God my guide



"Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path." *Psalm 119:105*

God's World

"The world and all that is in it belong to the Lord;



the earth and all who live on it are his." *Psalm 24:1*

Praise the Lord!

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord" *Psalm 150:6*



Give Thanks!

"Your constant love is better than life itself, and so I will praise you. I will give you thanks as long as I live; I will raise my hands to you in prayer"

Psalm 63:3-4



Interserve



On Sunday 17th January at our morning services we welcome back Naomi Gull, serving the people of Ilford from diverse ethnic backgrounds through her ministry with Urban Vision.

The population of Britain is becoming less 'Christian' and more multi-religious. For example, Leicester has earned the title of Britain's first 'pluralist' city where over 41% are Sikh, Hindu or Muslim with no group dominating. Meanwhile, the religious attitudes of Anglo-Saxons are changing. In 1983, 31% of white Britons said they had no religion and in 1998 the figure was 45% (Survey of British Social Attitudes)

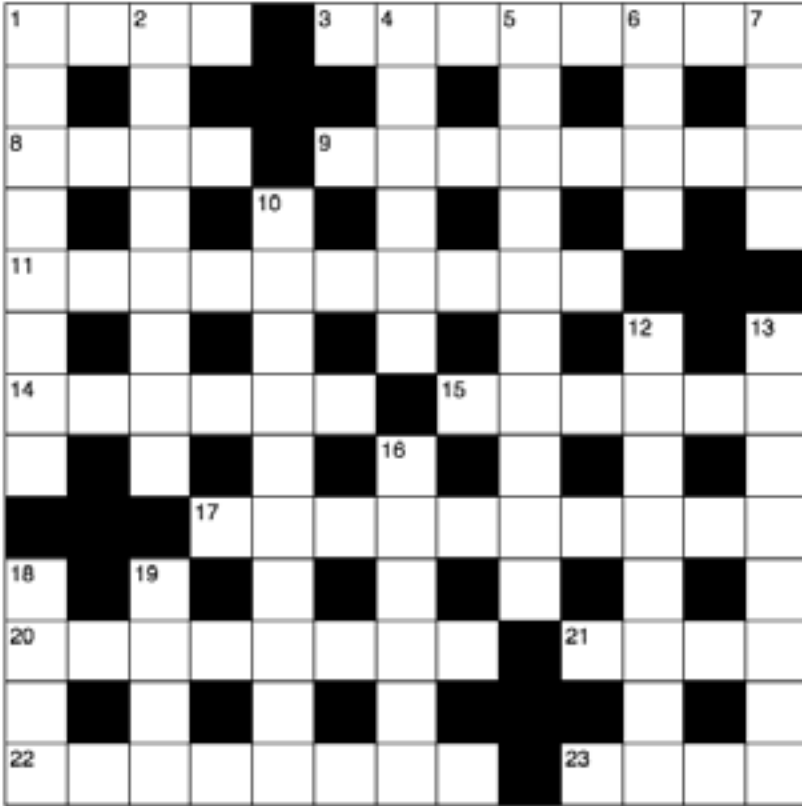
For some people these facts provoke fear about the loss of a Britain we once knew; for others the fear is about immigration or the apparent rise of radicalised minorities who may be working to impose greater 'foreign' influence on the British way of life; still others are concerned about right-wing groups who seem intent on fomenting racial tension.

Interserve has a very different view. Having served the peoples of Asia and the Arab World since 1852, we see Britain as a site for cross-cultural Christian witness. The idea that a 'missionary' is a Christian who leaves Britain to be a witness abroad is more of a colonial idea than a Biblical one. Today the sovereign Lord of history is at work creating significant cross-cultural mission opportunities across Europe. Interserve responded twenty-five years ago by creating Urban Vision as its UK ministry arm to help transfer cross-cultural skills to British Christians.

Here in Lindfield we may not yet experience the same plurality as the people of Leicester, but the world around us is constantly changing and we should be prepared to extend the hand of friendship and share God's love with neighbours from different cultures and backgrounds than our own.

Come and hear Naomi's story and check out the Missions display in the church concourse. Our Mission giving in January will assist Naomi to continue her vital work.

†Word



Across

- 1 'Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a — began to crow' (John 18:27) (4)
- 3 Fetters (Job 33:11) (8)
- 8 Perform on a musical instrument (1 Samuel 16:23) (4)
- 9 Paul describes it as 'the third heaven' (2 Corinthians 12:2–4) (8)
- 11 Loyally (Deuteronomy 11:13) (10)
- 14 Hens? Me? (anag.) (6)
- 15 Not visible (Matthew 6:6) (6)
- 17 Predicted site of the final great battle (Revelation 16:16) (10)
- 20 Jacob's youngest son (Genesis 35:18) (8)
- 21 One of Zophar's eleven sons (1 Chronicles 7:36) (4)
- 22 For example, London, Paris, Rome (8)
- 23 United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (1,1,1,1)

Down

- 1 Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — — (3,2,3)
- 2 Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8)
- 4 Pile together (1 Thessalonians 2:16) (4,2)
- 5 Commanded to justify (John 8:13) (10)
- 6 Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) (4)
- 7 Killed (Psalm 78:34) (4)
- 10 One of Graham Kendrick's best-known songs, — — King (3,7)
- 12 Indecency (Mark 7:22) (8)
- 13 Unceasing (Jeremiah 15:18) (8)
- 16 He prophesied 'the abomination that causes desolation' (Matthew 24:15) (6)
- 18 British Board of Film Classification (1,1,1,1)
- 19 Pans (anag.) (4)

Answers on page 24

Church Away -Weekend-at-Home:

**September 18th/19th 2010
at Great Walstead School**

We all had a great time in November 2008 at Pilgrim Hall when we gathered for “Celebr8”. The Elders feel that we should have some kind of church-wide gathering like that every two years, so later on in 2010, on September 18th and 19th to be precise, we are organising another weekend away. However, this time we’ll all be sleeping in our own beds!

The plan is to use the facilities of Great Walstead School for the afternoon of Saturday September 18th and all day Sunday September 19th, to come together as a fellowship to worship, pray and seek God together. There will be no services in our church on that Sunday. Anyone who is not able to come to Great Walstead is welcome to worship at either of our two sister churches in Lindfield. We are just beginning to plan the weekend and we haven’t got a title yet. Details of Speakers and themes will be given in the March edition of Good News. The important thing is to

**BOOK THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY
RIGHT NOW
September 18th/19th 2010.**

You can’t do anything about the length of your life, but you can do something about its width and depth.

Pray not for crutches to get you through life, but for wings.

Source: Parish Pump

January 2010 church diary

1st

Friday 10.30am Church Open for
– 12.00 prayer

2nd

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at URC

3rd

Sunday 10.30am Family Worship
with Communion –
The Pastor
6.30pm Evening worship
Tim Sanderson

9th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at URC

10th

Sunday 9.30am Family Worship -
The Pastor
11.00am The Pastor
6.30pm Evening Worship
& Communion -
David Jones

13th

Wednesday 12.30pm Lunch Fellowship

14th

Thursday 8.00pm Church Meeting

15th

Friday 12.30pm Lunch Fellowship

16th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at URC

17th

Sunday 9.30am Family Worship -
Stuart Dew
11.00am Stuart Dew
6.30pm Healing Service –
The Pastor

21st

Thursday House Groups

23rd

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at URC

24th

Sunday 9.30am Family Worship
– The Pastor
11.00am The Pastor
– Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship
– Mike Gardiner

26th

Tuesday In Touch Ladies Meal Out

27th

Wednesday 2.45pm The Fellowship
7.30pm Elders

28th

Thursday 8.00pm Church Prayer Meeting

30th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at URC

31st

Sunday 9.30am Family Worship –
Dan McQuillin
11.00am Dan McQuillin
6.30pm Evening Worship –
The Pastor

February 2010 church diary

4th

Thursday House Groups

7th

Sunday 9.30am Family Worship
with Communion
– Brian Stone
11.00am Brian Stone
6.30pm Evening Service –
Ron Goodenough

10th

Wednesday 12.30pm Lunch Fellowship

11th

Thursday 8.00pm Church Meeting in
the Lounge

12th

Friday 12.30pm Lunch Fellowship

13th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at Evangelical Free

14th

Sunday 9.30am Family Worship
– The Pastor
11.00am The Pastor
6.30pm Evening Worship
with Communion
Michael Davies

18th

Thursday House Groups

20th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at Evangelical Free

21st

Sunday 9.30am Family Worship -
Mike Gardiner
11.00am Mike Gardiner
6.30pm Healing Service –
The Pastor

23rd

Tuesday 7.45pm In Touch - Lounge

24th

Wednesday 2.45pm Afternoon
Fellowship
7.45pm Elders Meeting

25th

Thursday 8.00pm Church Prayer
Meeting - Lounge

27th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at Evangelical Free

28th

Sunday 9.30am Family Worship –
Ron Goodenough
11.00am Morning Worship
– Communion
Ron Goodenough
6.30pm Evening Worship
– The Pastor and
Brian Coupland
from the Bible
Society

**Sunday services
explained...**

see page 14

Balcombe Diary/Flower Rota

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 January and February are as follows:-

January	3rd	Philip Wren
January	10th	Philip Wren
January	17th	Charles Martin – COMMUNION SERVICE
January	24th	Philip Wren
January	31st	Cavin Wood
February	7th	Mike Gardener
February	14th	Philip Wren
February	21st	Charles Martin
February	28th	Philip Wren

FlowerRota



Arranging Distributing

January

03	Gladys Porter	Sue Tester
10	Mies Campling	Jacqueline Wood
17	Lesley Sparks	Barbara Shepherd
24	Mary Comber	Kay Phillipot
31	Chris Caswell	Jo Bloxham

February

07	Janet Wade	Iris Bingham
14	Mies Campling	Heather Swann
21	Jessie Green	Janet Sanderson
28	Carol Marsh	Sue Tester

March

07	Betty Billins	Jacqueline Wood
14	Jean Baxter	Barbara Shepherd
21	Zoë MacQuillin	Kay Phillipot
28	Audrey McKee	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.

Recordings of services can be borrowed free from the church.

Course on Depression

I recently attended Jenny and Fo's course on 'The Depressed Christian', which is for those who are depressed and those who would like to help those who are depressed. I thought it might be helpful to share my impressions with you.

Depression is something we don't like to think about – and yet it seems to touch every family in some way.

Having suffered depression myself, I know from my own experience how isolating it is, and anything that helps all of us to understand it more must surely help. The meetings are based on a book and CD produced by a **Christian Doctor – Dr. John Lockley.**

Within the gentle caring environment provided by Jenny and Fo, our group had the opportunity to begin to understand the various aspects of depression and what we can do to help ourselves or others.

Dr. Lockley aims to take away the fear of depression and gives a **very positive** message for the depressed Christian.

His finishing words are –

“It doesn't matter who you are,

If you are a Christian, whether you are depressed, not depressed,

Getting out of it, still in it, in it for a long time, whatever you are...

God loves you as you are NOW!”

Luckily for us there are more courses in the New Year, so if this course interests you, all you need do is contact Jenny Martin.

Joan Bailey

The Depressed Christian

I used to think that depression was just feeling sad or fed up, until it happened to me. I had had mild bouts for many years but nothing like I suffered this Autumn.

It started after a particularly bad week of worry and stress. I felt as if I was standing in a deep hole looking up at people going about their normal lives as I had once been able to do.

I lost my appetite, couldn't stay for long in crowded places, the lights and noise were too much for me, I had to be out in the fresh air in a quiet place. I dreaded going to bed as I had bad dreams which left me feeling woolly headed, then I would wake at around 4 am feeling shattered but unable to sleep. Everyday jobs seemed to drain my energy and I said to my long suffering husband "I'm not living, I am existing", there was a sense of complete hopelessness and I could really understand how some people could be driven

to suicide. I realised then that I had to do something but hated the idea of taking medication so I tried alternative therapies. These helped me to relax but the depression got worse as my bank account emptied!

So I did what I should have done months ago and saw my G.P. much to the horror of my therapists who talked to me as though I was about to embark on recreational drugs! I ignored their comments and followed my doctor's advice.

The anti-depressants took three weeks to work but I now feel my old self again, like coming out of prison.

I received support from some dear people at church and my illness coincided with a four week course that Jenny ran at Ryecroft. It consisted of four one hour seminars on DVD featuring Dr. John Lockley who is a G.P., a Christian and has suffered from depression himself during his days at medical school. The course is based on his book

Pakistan Church calls for an end to religious violence

The leader of the Methodist Church in Britain has welcomed moves by church leaders in Pakistan which call on the Pakistani government to end religious violence in the country.

This year, violent attacks against Christians have left many dead and made hundreds of families homeless, as many more fear for their safety. Church leaders in Pakistan have formed a Christian Action Forum to address the problem and are lobbying their Government to act to end the violence.

“The Depressed Christian”. It could have been written for me. Over the four weeks I learned exactly what goes on in the brain to cause depression. There was time after each session to talk to others in the group or to have a one to one with Jenny or Fo.

The last thing a sufferer wants to hear is “Pull yourself together” because you can’t or “How can you be depressed if you have Jesus in your life?” or “Worry is a sin as you don’t trust God.”

Depression is a physical illness and in my experience should be treated with medication that is safe, effective and non-addictive.

I would recommend this course to anybody who has suffered depression and their carers.

It came along just at the right time for me and you can’t tell me this was just a coincidence!

Bible Sketchbook

The Kingdom of God is near!

What a challenge! John the Baptist was shouting: "Repent—the Kingdom of God is near." He was getting ready for Jesus and he knew some of the top leaders were like snakes—pretending to repent, but still full of venom! He told them God's judgement was coming and they would all be cut down—like big trees—if they did not turn to God...



... With Jesus around even the stones would shout "Help!". He said if we turn to Jesus we will experience the Holy Spirit and fire and when the great harvest comes we will be safe for ever. The choice is ours!

(Read: Matthew 3: 1-12)



Warm air pockets

Some homes can be cold and draughty places to visit, especially at this time of year. But there is usually a draught-free corner where, if you manage to get yourself a seat there, you enjoy a comforting oasis of warmth. Churches can be draughty places, especially if you are lonely, or a newcomer, or feeling particularly vulnerable – there can sometimes be felt the icy draught of disapproval or the chill of unfriendliness. Michael Mitton, in his excellent little book “Wild Beasts and Angels” (Darton Longman & Todd 2000) writes that although all churches, sadly, have their draughty places, “we can all foster pockets of warm air, where people become open and it is safe to love and be loved.” He writes that this may be a particularly hospitable home or family, it may be a house group, a choir, the flower arrangers or indeed any other group of people who are simply trying to live out Jesus’ command to love one another. **A warm air pocket, where acceptance and healing can take place.**

I like the idea because it doesn’t require any organisation or preparation – just for you and me to live out those New Testament principles of the Christian life and so make our particular group a warm air pocket.

“Accept life, and be most patient and tolerant with one another, always ready to forgive if you have a difference with anyone. Forgive as freely as Christ has forgiven you” (Colossians 3v13 JB Phillips)

Who knows, perhaps enough warm air pockets will cause the love of God to spread out and dispel those draughty places.

Mike Gardiner

“Do you ever have time to pray?”

There are twenty-four hours in the day, but no one seems to have enough time, especially time to pray. The Outreach Group have a suggestion to make.

We want to encourage the whole congregation to think and talk about their faith more, to share it with one another. We believe this would help us to share our faith with people outside the church, but before we do that, something else is necessary. In order to communicate with other people about God, we have first to learn how to communicate with God. In other words, we need to learn how to pray.

The United Reformed Church has just embarked on its “Year of Prayer” – the second in a four-year programme entitled “Vision 4 Life”. In order to make time to pray, we are suggesting that during the week January 10th – 16th, we should do some fasting. Fasting has often been associated with a greater emphasis on prayer, but our idea is different.

On each of those seven days, we are challenging the whole congregation to miss a meal each day. It doesn't matter which one it is, but during the time usually taken up with preparing it, consuming it and washing the dishes, we want everyone to use the opportunity to pray. On the Sunday morning January 10th, Charles will be giving some simple practical suggestions on different styles and methods of prayer and there will be some notes to take away and use during the week.

Please feel free to tell Dan or Charles whether or not you have found this useful. It may be something we could usefully repeat.

The Outreach Group

Canon Dr Jeremy Duff, Director of Lifelong Learning in the Diocese of Liverpool, and Dwelly-Raven Canon, Liverpool Cathedral, urges people to read an international best-seller this year....

The Bible and your New Year's resolution

Why read the Bible this year? After all, few of us are short of things to do. For many of us reading the Bible is one of those 'oughts', or what my parents used to call things 'for the long winter nights' – a mythical time which never quite arrived when garages would be tidied, classic books read and photographs put in albums.

Generally though when there is something we say we would like to do, but never get round to it, there is a reason. Often people don't read the Bible because they think it will be too hard to understand, or because they think an old book won't give straight answers to the issues of their life, and aren't sure they would like it if it did!

All of that is to misunderstand the Bible. God has not given us a cryptic book of instructions, which if only we could decode would then give us an answer for every situation we face. The Bible's purpose is to allow us to meet God – the stories, the poetry, the letters, the prophecies are there not so much to give us instructions but to help us understand God better – to renew our minds so we think God's way.

Think about someone you admire and respect. Do you avoid listening to them because you think they will be too hard to understand or because they won't give straight answers to issues in your life? No. You listen knowing that you will only get to know them gradually, maybe some things will always elude us, but over time we get to know them better. And of course they don't tell us what to do, but gradually we are able to 'think like them' in the situations we face.

That is what reading the Bible achieves for us. As we read it in all its glory, its confusing bits, the pieces we like and those we don't, we gradually understand God more, and our thinking becomes more attuned to his. Then as we make the thousands of small decisions which we all face day in day out, we can have confidence that we are walking God's way. As the long winter nights are here, give it a go. Don't worry about what you don't understand or finding answers - gradually knowing God better is the point.

Source: Parish Pump

BigChurchDayOut

May 29th 2010

Stanford Hall, nr Loughborough, Leicestershire

May 30th & 31st

Wiston House, West Sussex

Dear Friends,

First of all may I wish you a very Happy Christmas for 2009 and a Happy New Year for 2010.

You may or may not have already heard that plans are well under way for the second BigChurchDayOut at Wiston next year.

This year we were overwhelmed with the number of people that came (15,000 in total) and because of that we are extending the event to two days in 2010. We will be running the same programme both days, giving you the option to come on either Sunday 30th May or Bank Holiday Monday 31st May. (We know already that many people are planning to come both days).

For those of you that came last year you will be aware of some of the traffic issues we had, and we know for some this spoilt their experience of the day. We want to assure you that we have a great team of people working their hardest to develop a traffic management plan that will help the event run as smoothly as possible. At Wiston

we will have 2 independent traffic systems that manage both the traffic from the east and the west, immediately giving us twice the options we had this year.

In addition to this, we would encourage you and your people to arrive at the event as early as possible (gates open 11am), not only to help with traffic, but so that you can get the most out of enjoying this wonderful day of celebration together.

With the word already spreading about 2010, and with tickets already starting to sell, we want to encourage you to think now about whether you will organise a group to come from your church so that your people can take advantage of the cheapest option on tickets. Some people may already be wanting to secure their tickets, and you may want to let them know that you will be organising a group to help everyone save costs

Our heart is to make the BigChurchDayOut as inclusive to as many as we can, and we have



done all we are able, to keep ticket prices as low as possible. If you are a smaller church, we recommend you get together with other churches in your community and organise a larger group.

We will be mailing out a pack of flyers, posters and a promotional DVD for you to show in church in January, but we are keen for now to let you know the dates so you can get these in your church diary.

PRAYER

You will know that prayer is an important element of the BigChurchDayOut. We are excited to let you know that for 2010 we will be holding 3 public prayer meetings at Wiston Church (adjacent to Wiston House), prior to the 2010 event, and would love to take this opportunity to encourage you and members of your church to attend.

The prayer evenings will include a time of worship, and a time of prayer for the South of England and also for the BigChurchDayOut event in May 2010. We would be grateful if you

would pass this on to your prayer coordinator at church, mark it in your church diary, and also encourage those that have a heart for our area to come along.

Our team will also be there to help answer any questions you may have about the event.

The time and dates for our BigChurchDayOut Prayer Meetings are:

31st January 2010
28th February 2010
25th April 2010

All meetings will be from 7-8.30pm. The address for Wiston House is Steyning, BN44 3DD.

We look forward to seeing you there. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions at this stage.

Kindest regards,
Tim Jupp
BigChurchDayOut team

The Fellowship

We extend a very warm welcome to all, and are always pleased to see new members. Details of our January/February meetings are as follows:-

Saturday 9th January

Coffee morning at 10.30am. This is with our friends from the Art Group, who will be displaying some of their work.

Wednesday 27th January

Meeting; at 2.45pm, when we welcome our Pastor – Charles Martin

Wednesday 24th February

Our good friend Barry Turnwell returns to bring us – ‘Some More of Barry’s Allsorts’
On all these occasions there will be a Bring and Buy Stall.

Fair Trade Stall

On Sunday 17th January and 21st February there will be a Fair Trade Stall in the lounge of the Church. It is a good way to stock up on food whilst supporting those in developing countries.

Stuart and Carol Marsh



Answers to crossword on page 10.

- DOWN:**
- 1, Cup of tea.
 - 2, Charisma.
 - 4, Heap up.
 - 5, Challenged.
 - 6, Lots.
 - 7, Slew.
 - 10, The Servant.
 - 12, Lewdness.
 - 13, Unending.
 - 16, Daniel.
 - 18, BFC.
 - 19, Snap.
- ACROSS:**
- 1, Cock.
 - 3, Shackles.
 - 8, Play.
 - 9, Paradise.
 - 11, Faithfully.
 - 14, Emmesh.
 - 15, Unseen.
 - 17, Armageddon.
 - 20, Benjamin.
 - 21, Ber.
 - 22, Capitals.
 - 23, USFG.

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)

11.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
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 8.45am 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 Tues) for women of all ages

Wed 2.45pm The Fellowship (4th Wed) for mature ladies and gentlemen
6:45pm Zest 4:5:6 games, craft, tuck plus the 'Bible bit' (term time)

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) games, craft, tuck and a bible message (term time)

House Groups normally meet 1st and 3rd Thursday

Church Office: 01444 482098

Charles Martin (Minister)

Mobile No: 07821 904785

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

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

