

GoodNEWS

Lindfield URC's Village Magazine

March 2011

youthalpha.
explore
the meaning of life



Pray at all times

- A Testimony to God's Faithfulness
- Charles Martin writes on Prayer
- Fresh Wind Fresh Fire - A Book Review

FREE
PLEASE HELP YOURSELF

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Editorial



There is a real theme running through this month's magazine. It is one of the power of prayer to change us to be those men and women who trust in God's faithfulness and in His supreme adequacy to do great things. Not a bad theme!!! Let us pray that God will make it not just be a theme but a living reality in our lives.

David Jones has mentioned in church the book 'Fresh Wind Fresh Fire' and has now written a short precis of this book. It is an account of what happens when God's people cry out in prayer to God to change them. Prayer can be daunting, so Charles has started a short series on the practical aspects of prayer.

Janet Drayton has written a Prayer on God's faithfulness based on Psalm 136. There is also a prayer based on the Lord's Prayer.

As ever, there is information about events and happenings going on, in and around the church this coming month.

Val

Dear Friends,



Soon after the publication of this magazine, Lent will have begun and somehow I always feel it necessary to explain the significance and usefulness of this season of the Church's year. Our Puritan ancestors were decidedly twitchy about these things. They were worried about ignoring St. Paul's advice in Galatians 4:10 against "observing special days and months and seasons". Even so, there are good reasons for making Lent special, if only because it helps us to prepare for Easter.

Here in Lindfield the three churches – All Saints, the Evangelical Free Church and the URC – enjoy close and friendly relations and this Lent, as in previous years, we are joining together for a united Lent Course. I thought I would tell you about it.

The course will begin on Ash Wednesday (March 9th) with a united celebration of Holy Communion at All Saints. Canon Clarke will give an overview of the rest of the course, which will take place at All Saints on the following Wednesdays until April 13th. During Holy Week on Maundy Thursday (April 21st) we will join one another again for a united celebration of Holy Communion, this time at the Evangelical Free Church.

The meetings will begin with coffee in the church at 7.30.pm and include opening worship, an address, some testimony, an opportunity for questions, concluding with closing worship no later than 9.15.pm and followed by coffee and fellowship.

The course title is "Journey to the Cross" and the addresses will be based on the following passages from Matthew's Gospel, illustrating various aspects of Jesus' ministry. It is suggested that everyone who comes to the course should read C. J. Mahaney's book "The Cross Centred Life". The dates, Bible passages and speakers are as follows.

March 16th	Matthew	4: 1-11	(Temptation)	James Clarke
March 23rd	Matthew	5: 17-20	(Teaching)	Charles Martin
March 30th	Matthew	9: 1- 8	(Miracles)	Trevor Baxter
April 6th	Matthew	11: 25-30	(Rest for the weary)	James Clarke
April 13th	Matthew	21: 1-11	(Triumphal Entry)	P-J Guy

I do hope many folk from our church will find time to come and share in the Lent Course this year. It gives us a chance to meet fellow-believers from the other two churches in Lindfield and perhaps more importantly, it provides an opportunity to walk with the Lord Jesus on His journey to the Cross. That in turn will help us to celebrate His resurrection.

Your Pastor and friend,

Charles S. Martin

Prayer Focus

At the last prayer meeting Charles led us to meditate on Psalm 51.

Perhaps this month it would be good if we all spent time in prayer before the Lord carefully considering this Psalm and seeing where we are in our walk with him, asking him to search us, reveal our deepest points of need and minister his grace to us.



What are the sacrifices that really please him? v17. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart. Is our plea that of David “**Create in me a pure heart O God – O Lord, open my lips and my mouth will declare your praise.**” Is it our chief desire v 19 to delight Him? His grace will enable us.

During March we will be starting a series looking at the work of the Holy Spirit. Please pray that the Lord will speak to us as individuals and as a fellowship. Youth Alpha will be underway and arrangements for a Senior Alpha will be in hand – both need our prayers as do the regular activities of the fellowship. Other matters can be found on the missions display, Evangelical Alliance and CARE boards and weekly notice sheet. Please see the article on Naomi Gull in this edition of *GoodNews*.

'Broken'



Charles had a word from God in the last few months that we need to be willing to be 'broken' to receive God's spirit afresh in our church. This was confirmed by Doreen Wood who received a word that we are like a flower bud that cannot bloom without first being broken open. It occurred to me that the theme of brokenness runs through communion, the death of Christ and the resurrection so I wrote the song to encompass all three and encourage us to allow ourselves to be broken to be freed for His purposes.

'Broken'

This bread must be broken, this wine must be poured.
These symbols of love from our sacrificed Lord.
So we can remember with bread and with wine,
Your grace and your rescue plan for all mankind.

Chorus:

*We must be broken for faith's flower to open, we offer ourselves to you
Lord*

*We are but clay shaped by your hands and made to reveal the truth of
your word.*

Your body was broken, your blood was shed.
Nails in your hands and thorns on your head
Suffering servant, passover lamb,
Broken to save us, broken for man.

Chorus

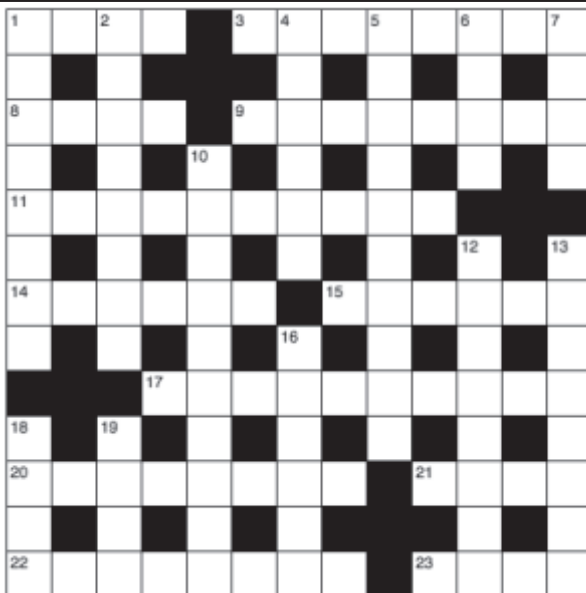
The tomb broken open, you rose from the grave.
Great blessings from heaven, your spirit you gave.
That spirit lives in us, we're freed in your power,
So take us and break us, released for this hour.

Chorus

David Goodchild

Across

- 1 Made from the fruit of the vine, symbol of the blood of Christ (4)
 - 3 You are to set an ambush **behind the city**. Don't go very far from it. All of you be on — — . (Joshua 8:4) (3,5)
 - 8 Seep (4)
 - 9 Celebrated by Jesus on the night of his betrayal (Luke 22:15) (8)
 - 11 One of the supposed **sites of Christ's burial** place in Jerusalem (6,4)
 - 14 'A city on a hill — be hidden' (Matthew 5:14) (6)
 - 15 He inherited Elijah's mantle (2 Kings 2:12–13) (6)
 - 17 Where Jesus prayed 'Not as I will, but as you will' (Matthew 26:36, 39) (10)
 - 20 'Only in his home town and in his — — is a prophet without honour' (Matthew 13:57) (3,5)
 - 21 Sail (anag.) (4)
 - 22 How Jesus was punished before his crucifixion (Matthew 27:26) (8)
 - 23 Eye sore (4)
- ## Down
- 1 Can't grow (anag.) (5,3)
 - 2 A servant girl to Peter, 'You also were with that — , Jesus' (Mark 14:67) (8)
 - 4 Well-being (Proverbs 3:8) (6)



- 5 Pentecostal denomination, — of God (10)
- 6 One of the 'obvious' acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19, 21) (4)
- 7 'I preached that they should repent and — to God' (Acts 26:20) (4)
- 10 ' — — , the world will not see me any more, but you will see me' (John 14:19) (6,4)
- 12 He betrayed Jesus: Judas — (Luke 6:16) (8)
- 13 Jesus to Peter: ' — — of my sheep' (John 21:16) (4,4)
- 16 The centurion said, 'Surely this man was — — of God' (Mark 15:39) (3,3)
- 18 Baked bread (Mark 8:14) (4)
- 19 'Blessing and honour, glory and power, be — Him' (Handel's Messiah) (4)

Monthly Mission Giving – March

This month will be devoted to the work of Naomi Gull.

Naomi works for Interserve and is seconded to Ilford Baptist Church under their Urban Vision initiative. She has visited Lindfield URC on a number of occasions, most recently with the gospel choir from her church at our barbecue last July.

Naomi is a Muslim Background Believer with a tremendous testimony of how she became a Christian. She works in the multi-cultural community showing the love of Jesus, involved in a variety of projects including a Pram Club for mothers and toddlers, Language Link teaching English, and also teaching Urdu! She also has many opportunities to share her faith and to support others who come from similar backgrounds to her own.

Currently she is writing her biography and has just recently returned safely from Pakistan where she had the opportunity of ministry and also of interviewing Christian friends who have faced persecution, some because of her conversion.

We are hoping that she will be able to visit us again later in the year to share her experiences and to bring with her some friends who, like her, have come to faith.

There are more photos on the mission display boards and also copies of her latest newsletter.

Please pray for Naomi, and if you would like to give please use the special envelopes and place your gift in the offertory at any Sunday service. Please complete a Gift Aid Slip if appropriate.



Thank you



 **INTERSERVE**
urban vision

Book Review:

'Fresh Wind Fresh Fire' by Jim Cymbala.

Since we first mentioned this book a number of you have read it and received it very positively finding it “easy to read, exciting, encouraging and challenging, the many anecdotes demonstrating God at work in people’s lives.”

The book recounts the story of the Brooklyn Tabernacle in New York, however this is not the usual success story but it demonstrates “What happens when God’s Holy Spirit invades the hearts of His people.”

The story begins with a church with few members, no finances and a building literally falling to pieces. Indeed the pastor Jim Cymbala says “the embarrassing truth is that sometimes even I didn’t want to show up for a service – that’s how bad it was.” Things eventually reached the point where he became so depressed that he had to abandon his sermon and call the congregation to prayer, he was at his lowest and discovered “an astonishing truth – God is attracted to weakness.” Things began to improve but then his health failed! At this point he went on convalescence and whilst seeking the Lord he had a visitation from the Holy Spirit- he confessed his utter impotence and received a promise.

The promise was “If you and your wife will lead my people to pray and call upon my name, you will never lack for something to preach. I will supply all the money that’s needed, both for the church and for your family, and you will never have a church big enough to contain the crowds I will send in response.”

How God has fulfilled that promise is what the book is all about. It contains testimonies of the power of God’s grace, events that demonstrate clearly that God answers prayer in most remarkable ways, stories of real spiritual battles in people’s lives and the cost of a discipleship that counts for God. There is not room in this short account to give specific details but you will not be disappointed if you read the stories for yourselves. You will see what God will do if His people pray and let God be God in His church.

To quote Jack W. Hayford of the Church on the Way,” Jim Cymbala’s voice is worth everyone hearing. He has a passion and a purity that brings force and clarity to the grand old gospel – bringing it alive with contemporary vitality and beauty.”

David Jones

God Is Faithful

Harry and Rosemary McCleery tell of examples in their lives which show the faithfulness of God .

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

all I have needed thy hand hath provided;

great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

When our daughter Esther was ten days old she contracted pneumonia. Rosemary and I spent the next five days doing twelve hour rotational shifts **at the children's hospital** - at one point sleeping in a chair behind a screen - whilst sharing a room with a family in similar circumstances. As time passed and we twice had to stretch out her stick-like arms under an enormous X-ray machine, the pneumonia progressed through her little lungs. Rosemary and I sat in a café one day discussing the prospect of seeing her tiny body in a coffin at the front of our church on a dark day shortly to follow. I tell you the truth; we had to decide which God we would follow. In the day of reckoning, know the truth, the God of Israel through Jesus Christ still reigns and He is abundant in all circumstances to carry you through. Thankfully Esther survived her sickness and has had no on-going problems with her chest since. She continues to menace her dad every day! Whether or not God in His grace gives us the breath to live another day, we should know in all circumstances - Great is thy faithfulness!

Sometimes our prayers for healing are answered by the loved one's departure from their life. At that point it is particularly hard to recognise **God's unending love and faithfulness**. Rosemary had this experience when her first husband died of cancer at 43 leaving her with a four and a half year old son (with special needs) and a new-born baby. But she testifies that God has amply cared for and provided for them all, and healed the pain of their loss. Great is thy faithfulness!

Similarly my dad (who had lost one son to alcoholism at 28 and the other to an Islamic marriage) was able to sing God's praises through his pain

and know the release from life that can only be found in a crucified, risen Christ. Nail your pain to the cross if you are a Christian and leave it there. That's what Christ died for. Live in death no more. Now I understand that he put all his hopes and fears from his past experience in the existence of a living God. Great is thy faithfulness!

I wasn't always like this. I have tried to get through life on the strength of drunken Friday nights in central London, supporting Tottenham, spending excessive amounts of time in gyms and searching for fulfilment in the love of a woman in my life. As temporary as all these solutions are (you will have others that I haven't listed - careers, money etc.) nothing will fill the hole in your heart. The holes that were pierced in Christ's hands as he hung on the cross were put there for you. He filled the hole in your heart that aches for him. Know His peace by surrendering to His grace. He does not promise immunity from life's trials, but the God who has counted all the hairs of your head has declared His eternal faithfulness to you: 'Surely I am with you always to the very end of the age.'

(Matthew 28 v 20)

Harry and Rosemary McCleery.

The Fellowship

The meeting this month is on Wednesday 23rd March at 2.30pm. We welcome back an old friend, Barry Turnbull, the title of his talk is 'All about Communications'

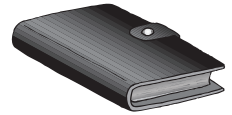
We were pleased to welcome new members last month and hope to see both old and new friends this month. There will be our usual Bring and Buy Stall.

Sunday Service Times - Note

Following the decision made at Church Meeting on Thursday 10th February, the second service on a Sunday morning will commence at 11.15am as from the 3rd April 2011.

The new times will be incorporated in the Diary from next month's GoodNEWS.

March Church Diary



4th

Friday 1.30 pm Women's World
Day of Prayer

5th

Saturday 8.45 — Prayer Meeting
9.30am at All Saints

6th

Sunday

9.30am The Pastor
11.00am The Pastor
6.30pm The Pastor

9th

Wednesday 12.30pm Lunch
Fellowship
7.30pm Lent Course
Celebration at
All Saints

10th

Thursday 8:00pm Church Meeting

11th

Friday 12.30pm Lunch
Fellowship

12th

Saturday 8.45 — Prayer Meeting
9.30am at All Saints

13th

Sunday

9.30am David Jones
11.00am David Jones
6.30pm Steve Hagger -
Communion

16th

Wednesday 7.30pm Lent Course at
All Saints

19th

Saturday 8.45 — Prayer Meeting
9.30am at All Saints

20th

Sunday

9.30am David Walters
Fair Trade stall
11.00am David Walters
6.30pm The Pastor

22nd

Tuesday 7.45 pm In Touch

23rd

Wednesday 2.30pm Afternoon
Fellowship
7.30pm Lent Course at
All Saints

24th

Thursday 8.00pm Church Prayer
Meeting

26th

Saturday 8.45 — Prayer Meeting
9.30am at All Saints

27th

Sunday

9.30am The Pastor
11.00am The Pastor -
Communion
6.30pm Dan McQuillin

29th

Tuesday 7.30pm Elders Meeting

30th

Wednesday 7.30pm Lent Course at
All Saints

*Please note these dates are correct at
time of printing, but watch the weekly
notices in case of change.*

Balcombe United Reformed Church



Bramble Hill, Balcombe RH17 6HR

Our services are held weekly at 10.30am.

Visitors are welcome to join us.

Speakers for February are as follows:-

March 6th **Cavan Wood**

March 13th Philip Wren

March 20th Charles Martin -
Communion

March 27th To be Advised

FLOWER ROTA



Arranging

Distributing

March

6th Betty Billins

Iris Bingham

13th Jean Baxter

Janet Sanderson

20th Serena Nathan

Sue Tester

27th Barbara
Shepherd

Barbara
Shepherd

April

3rd Anne Parker

Jo Bloxham

10th Carol Marsh

Iris Bingham

17th Audrey Saunders

Heather Swann

24th Easter Flowers

Janet Sanderson

Distribution Rota

If anyone is able to offer help with distributing church flowers to the sick on Monday mornings please contact Heather Swann Tel: 450335

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 served between the morning services.

The 11:00am service is usually more set and formal.

(Exceptions to these times are shown in the Diary).

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 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.

Practical tips on Prayer (Part 1) – Building a Relationship with God



Following on my Pastor's letter in the February issue of "Good News", the Editor has asked me to give a few practical tips about prayer. I feel intensely inadequate to do this. Although I was brought up in a Christian home and I have been a Christian and a Minister for over forty years, to me prayer is like an ocean and I am like a man standing with his toes in ripples on the shore. Before me is a vast expanse of water stretching to infinity. What do I know about navigating it? Very little, but maybe that sense of inadequacy shows that I may have something useful to pass on, because the more you experience the reality of prayer, the more and more overwhelmed you become by the possibilities it opens up.

I don't want to talk about Intercession – the way we share our worries and concerns about other people with God. That's an essential part of prayer and we shall look at it in a later part of this series. It's a whole subject in itself and this time I want to concentrate on the first steps of building a relationship with Him.

- First of all, don't worry about posture, whether you sit, kneel or stand. We need to focus on God, not our aching knees! Of course we have to be careful not to be so comfy that we drift off into a doze, so choose somewhere you will be comfortable, but not too comfortable.
- Some people say that the first thing we should do is give God praise and adoration and that's right, but it's no good bringing Him words or feelings that you think you ought to bring. So just empty your mind and dwell on this thought –

The Creator of the Universe knows everything about me, everything I think or do or say. I am in His presence now and no matter how I may have grieved Him or let Him down, He is looking at me with love which is so unimaginably wonderful, that it's beyond my understanding.

That is where God wants us to be, conscious of His love and grace, because that is the place from which everything else springs. When we are there:

- We are able to express our praise and adoration. What other thought or emotion could possibly occupy us when we realise how much He loves us?
- We are able to confess our sins. The shame of having betrayed His love forces us to be honest and the reality of His love gives us the chance to stop pretending to be other than we are.
- We are able to listen to what He says. As we read His word in Scripture, because we trust Him as our heavenly Father, our minds are open to hear Him and our hearts ready to obey Him.

Read a passage from the Bible and always use some Bible reading notes. (Scripture Union has been my teacher since I was fourteen.) Beware of reading without notes. You will either read too much and get tired or too little and fail to benefit from what you have read. A clear scheme of Bible reading will help you to be disciplined and prayer needs discipline. Don't worry if you miss a day or two. Leave what you've missed and begin again where you are.

Next time I want say something about how to listen to the Holy Spirit as we read the Bible.

After that we'll be looking at using the Psalms in prayer. For years they have been my direct line into God's presence. They contain every aspect of the spiritual life and they are all there in everyone's Bible!

Finally, I'll try to tackle the whole matter of Intercession – asking God to do things for ourselves and other people.

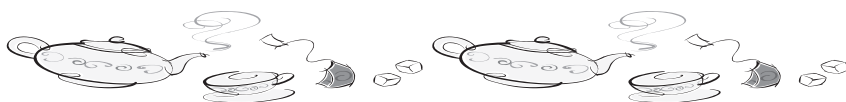
If I raise anything at all in these articles which trouble you or you would like to discuss with me personally, please do not hesitate to ask.

Charles S Martin.

LINDFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
HIGH STREET, LINDFIELD



TUNES & TEA CAFÉ



Saturday Afternoon

26th March at 3-00pm

Music for All



by



Sister, Sister Singing Group
Lindfield URC Singers
&
Perdido Players Swing Band



Tea and cake
ADMISSION FREE



Retiring collection in aid of St. Peter and St. James Hospice

Further details from the Church

In Touch

Our first meeting in the New Year consisted of a meal in the church with 25 ladies being present.

The food was delicious, and thanks are due to those who were involved in the organisation of a very successful evening. It was good to meet together again after Christmas and to "catch up" in a relaxing atmosphere.

We are hoping to have an outside speaker to our next meeting on 22nd March, but please watch the notice board for further details. A warm welcome is extended to everyone.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

All are welcome to the interdenominational Women's World Day of Prayer which will be held this year at Lindfield United Reformed Church at 1.30 p.m. on Friday 4th March with Jean Gardiner as the speaker.

There will be a play area for children.

If you are willing to help with serving tea after the service please contact Jenny Machell.

Tunes and Tea Cafe 26th March at 3-00pm.

Last November we had our first cafe and it was much appreciated by many who would not turn out on a winter evening. We had a good audience and enjoyed a very wide variety of music plus several amusing moments.

The format will be the same and the Sister, Sister group will be joining plus the Perdido Players and our own Singers.

There will be a retiring collection for St Peter and St James Hospice and there will, of course, be tea and cake. For more information contact Peter Swann 01444 450335.

Thank you. Peter

Why not Mission?

Katie Cookney is one of our students. She and 3 other students have just taken on the responsibility of heading up the Cardiff Christian Union Mission Outreach called Revive. This mission was set up by students to support some of the Churches in the South Wales valleys. They mainly help with the running of youth groups on a weekly basis. Revive also organises a 2 week Mission in the summer to one of the valley towns.

Katie was musing about Mission in anticipation of the C.U.'s Mission week to the University, and has written down some of her thoughts. (Editor's note the C.U. mission was 5th - 12th February 2011).

Are you “overwhelmed by your inadequacy and underwhelmed by God’s adequacy”? In the run up to our university mission week, we’ve been looking and thinking about the theme “But God...” One evening, we came together as a C.U. It was a time to praise God, and to hear about what’s being planned for mission week, and we were encouraged to think about God and about why we do mission. So many of us, in fact I think all of us, can get this knot in the pit of our stomachs when we are in the face of mission. We start to think things like “But God, I’m too shy”, “But God, someone else would be so much better!”, “But God, I just don’t feel in the right place to be telling people about You.” But why do we do this? If we look in the bible, mission is a distinct recurring theme throughout the old and the new testaments, and I think for as long as God has chosen to use people to partner in His mission for this world, there have been those “But God” excuses.

Think about Moses (Exodus 3:1-4:17), he says I’m not important enough to go, I don’t know what to say, what if they don’t believe me, what if they think I’m weird, I’m not a very good speaker, surely there’s someone better, just send someone else! Can you associate with any of those? I’m smiling as I write this, because I think I’ve said every one of those to God at one point or another. Then think about David (1 Samuel 16:1-13), he was the youngest and smallest of all his brothers, he wasn’t even brought before Samuel initially, he was overlooked! Then think about the disciples (Matthew 4:18-22), Peter, Andrew, James and John were all fishermen,

they were regarded as not intelligent enough to have been disciples of other Rabbis'. James and John also had anger issues. Basically those are just a few examples of people in the bible, whom God has chosen to use, and have either come up with excuses, or from our perspective aren't the best for the job of mission. So, take encouragement in this, we are most certainly not alone when we doubt and question God's call to mission. But, do not stop there!

We can be encouraged, but we can't then allow ourselves to then sit back and get comfortable... that is not the point of encouragement! It is so easy to dip into the bible when we are challenged or struggling and find a nice verse that reminds us that God loves us, and then we feel a bit warmer inside; we close our bible, put it away, and continue with the rest of our day. This is not what we have been called to. If this makes you uncomfortable, don't stop reading, if I'm honest I am certainly not comfortable writing this because I know that I struggle so much with settling into comfortable religion, but so often this replaces living faith. Ok, so let's continue together.

Mixed in with the overwhelming sense of our own inadequacies is often an underwhelming sense of God's adequacy. Surely if God could use Moses, and David and the disciples who all failed and sought excuses, God can use us too? It's also worth remembering that God wasn't reluctant to use these people, He chose to use them, and He chooses to partner with us. All we have to do is take that leap of faith to trust that God is God.

Mission isn't something big that certain people do, or that people do at a certain time in their life, but actually it's an everyday thing. Mission is just a natural response to our salvation, if we are saved, then we go on mission and we pray for mission. Look at Psalm 51 v12-13 "Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you."

Mission is an overflow of the response to God's grace in our lives. As we seek God's heart to permeate our lives, mission comes into focus and the world comes into our perspective.

(Continued on page 18)

So as we go on from thinking about mission and our missional excuses, we need to be asking ourselves why don't I want to go on mission? We need to be brutally honest with each other and with ourselves, why aren't we sold out for mission (being sold out for mission doesn't necessarily mean going to far off places, but it does mean we pray for those who do go, we each go to the mission field God has placed us in, and we pray for those who go elsewhere... how else will we be able to fulfil the great commission?))? Ask each other how we can be praying for one another, meditate on the love of God, and seek God's heart.

Romans 6:23, says, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." The reality for so many people in our world today is only the first part of this verse, they only know death. If you see someone running out into the street and they will get hit by a car, you don't stand and watch and find joy in the fact that you are safe. No, of course not, you run to them, or shout to tell them what is going to happen, you try all you can to ensure that they don't get hit by the car! We can't rest, we can't be content to know that we are saved; we have to go out and tell others.

So why mission? I guess firstly because Jesus has given us some very specific commands; as in Matthew 28:v18-20; 'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.' So in fact we don't have a choice, but as we meditate on God's amazing love for us, we will want to do what He has asked us to do. And as we seek his heart will we not remember another command to '... love your neighbour as yourself', Mark v12:31, so we will want to share with our neighbours God's precious gift of grace in the Lord Jesus Christ; and we are not alone because Matthew 28 concludes with that great promise 'and surely I am with you always, to the end of the age' so even when we get the 'knot in the pit of our stomach feeling', God is with us – so we still go!

Katie Cookney

A reflection on The Lord's Prayer - Matthew 6:1-18

Our Father in heaven, please help us.

We, your children, learn slowly.

So often we say nothing when your name is mis-used.

Often our lives do not reflect your ways,

Mostly we do what we want on earth,

And this can make heaven unimaginable.

We expect so much more than we actually need each day.

Sometimes we think we don't need forgiveness,

Sometimes we think we are unforgivable,

And we forget that other people make these same errors of thinking.

When it comes to temptation, we find our own ways,

We are confused about what is and is not evil,

We are confused about deliverance,

We are confused.....

And here is the wonder, the grace and the mystery,

That you know us completely,

Our failings, our secrets,

And love us forever and ever,

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

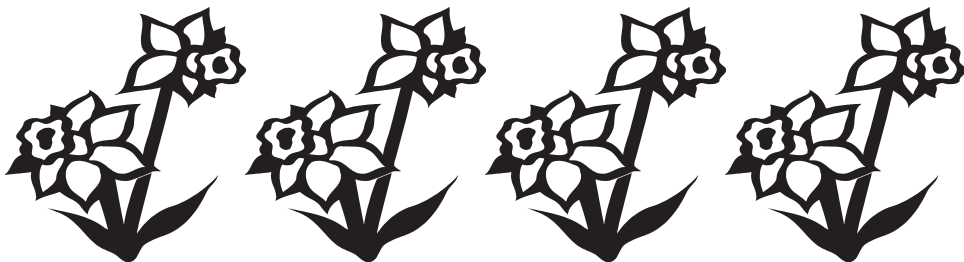
FAMILY NEWS

BEREAVEMENTS

We are sad to report the death of three of our Church Family. Ivan Orchin died shortly before Christmas, Rita Cooper died on New Year's Day and Edna Flint who died later in January. These faithful Christians are now at peace with their Lord and Saviour; for Ivan and Rita a release after battling with illness, and Edna has spent the latter years of her life in residential care. But for their families a time of great sadness. We offer to Meta, Brian and Michael and their families our heartfelt sympathy. Our love and prayers are with them all at this time.

WEDDING

On a much happier note, we send our warm congratulations and love to Ray Smith and Sally Marshall as they marry on March 12th. We pray that God will richly bless them both.



Induction of New Moderator for the Southern Synod

On Saturday 5th March 2011 at Purley URC, The Revd Nicola Furley-Smith will be inducted as the new Moderator of the Southern Synod.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Wine. 3, The alert. 8, Ooze. 9, Passover. 11, Garden Tomb. 14, Cannot. 15, Elisha. 17, Gethsemane. 20, Own house. 21, Lisa. 22, Flogging. 23, Style.
DOWN: 1, Wrong act. 2, Nazarene. 4, Health. 5, Assemblies. 6, Envy. 7, Turn. 10, Before long. 12, Iscariot. 13, Take care. 16, The Son. 18, Loaf. 19, Unto.