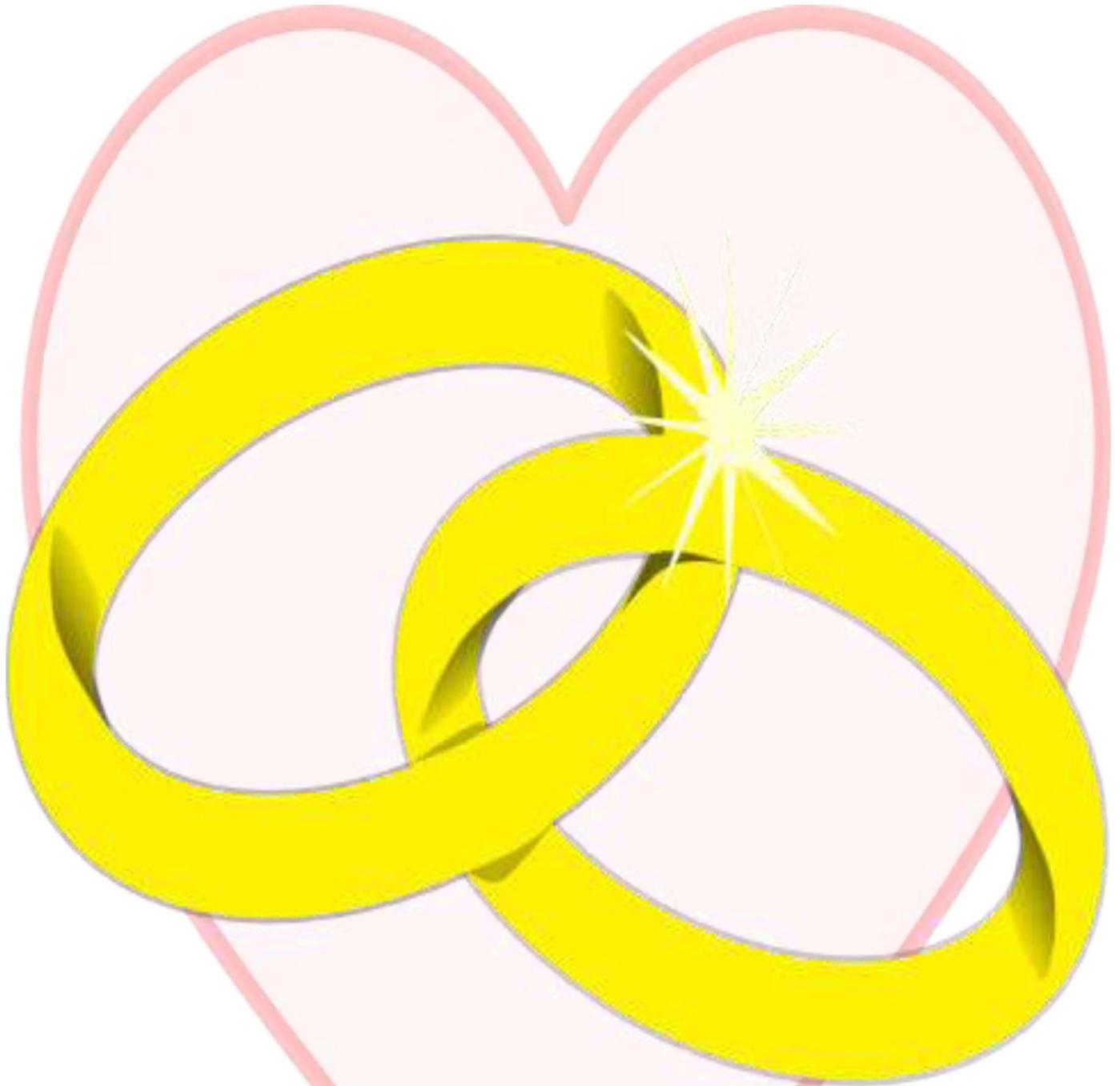


*Good***NEWS**

Lindfield URC's Village Magazine

May 2011



- **The joy of Christian Marriage**
- **Thoughts on a Silent Retreat**
- **More Practical Prayer Tips**

FREE
PLEASE HELP YOURSELF

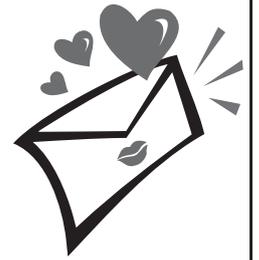
1 Corinthians 13:1 - 8



If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I have to the poor and surrender my body to the flames but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails.



From God



By the time this edition comes out the big Wedding will have happened, but no doubt it will still be much talked about, so we thought that it would be good to take this opportunity to think about Christian marriage. Thanks to Ron and Janet Goodenough and Chris and Nicki Glaister for sharing with us some thoughts on marriage and the centrality of their faith in their marriages.

What else do we have? Helen Hall has co-ordinated the thought of those who have been involved with inChoir; whilst several of the Ladies who went on a weekend silent retreat share how they found that.

We seem to be inundated with reminders about different events which are coming up in this month. So once again pen and paper may be a wise move to have within easy access – just a thought.

It seems to be a very “thoughtful” edition this month, so I hope you enjoy reading and sharing in others’ thoughts!

Val

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Dear Friends,

By the time you read this, the celebrations will be over and Prince William and his fiancée will be man and wife. She will no longer be Miss Kate Middleton. Instead she will be “Her Royal Highness Princess William of Wales”.



It's somewhat ironic that the country is getting excited about a wedding, in the same month that it was reported that fewer and fewer people are getting married. We may well regret it, but does it really matter?

I believe it does. It matters because human beings, especially small growing ones, need security. Statistics can always be manipulated, but the facts are that fifty percent of couples who co-habit without getting married will break up before any children born to them are five years old. On the other hand, couples who marry are five times more likely to stay together. It's not rocket science to see which environment is better for the children.

Many folk who do marry spend a time co-habiting first under the false impression that a “trial” marriage will guarantee permanence. Curiously it seems to work in reverse. It's not uncommon for a break-up to follow a wedding! That could be seen as a strong argument in favour of not getting married, but what it actually shows is that the one thing that will help to guarantee permanence in a marriage is total commitment. You have to lock the door and throw away the key.

Recently several members of our congregation have celebrated forty and fifty years of marriage. Jenny and I are lagging behind. We've only been married for thirty-seven years, but I'm sure that we would all admit that permanence in marriage doesn't come without effort and sometimes even failure. We have to forgive each other and ourselves every day! My wife has loved me and borne with my failings for nearly thirty-seven years and the wealth of shared experience is beyond measure. It rests on my absolute certainty that she is committed to me and the confidence she has that I am committed to her.

The failure I speak of will be different for everyone and tragically it can strain the relationship up to and beyond breaking-point. There's no

guarantee of success, but while the declared aim of marriage is to stay together permanently, co-habitation is the admission that there's always an escape route for both parties. That's what makes it such an inferior alternative. The real argument in favour of marriage against co-habitation is that marriage gives you so much more than co-habitation and is much more likely to work.

Let's pray that the royal couple discover that as they share their lives together. The fervent hope of those of us who can remember the day in July 1981 when Prince William's parents married, is that this generation will have learned from the tragic mistakes of the previous one.

Your Pastor and friend,
Charles S. Martin

Prayer Focus

This month we would encourage all to join us on May 26th as a

"Day to seek the Lord". We are suggesting that we all set aside 20 minutes during the day to wait on the Lord using Psalm 139 verses 23 and 34 and Jeremiah 29 verse 13 as

a guide. In the evening we will meet for prayer and consider how we might live in his presence – there will be opportunity to share what the Lord has said during the day.

Full details will be provided nearer the time.



Family News

Thanks from Alice Piercy:

May I say a big thank you to all who have prayed for me, and all the love and kindness shown to me during these last difficult weeks. May God bless each one of you abundantly.

With Christian love.

Love is in the air!

Nobody can have missed the news that there is a big event taking place on the 29th April. As we write this article many of you will be looking forward to a locally organised party to celebrate the wedding of Prince William to Kate Middleton. Well, an equally big event took place on the 26th September 1970 – yes you've guessed it we were married and we have been celebrating ever since!! Westminster Abbey was not available so we 'tied the knot' at the Uckfield Baptist Church, not so good for photos but it was where we met and the church that had impacted our lives as young people so the venue was very special.

Our lively youth group was responsible for many 'pairings' back then and that's where we met. We were both baptised as believers whilst in our teens at the same service before we were an item – maybe someone slipped something into the water! We were often out taking services and taking part in other events both singing solos from time to time – then someone suggested we should get together and sing duets – very subtle!!



Our first house was a little less grand than Will and Kate's accommodation is likely to be but it was 'home'. A rather neglected semi that we worked on for a year or two. Ron's mum couldn't believe we intended to move in straight after our honeymoon as it was more like a building site!! Oh yes, the honeymoon, a week in a chalet in North Devon - £6.00 for the week. We even stayed on for an extra couple of nights for another £2.00 we enjoyed it so much!!!

Well, here we are forty years later, three married 'children' and eight grandchildren. Who'd have imagined that?

During these forty years as Christians we have been so aware of God's hand upon our lives. Before we were married we determined that the spiritual side of our lives would be top priority. Praying together whilst we were 'courting' became a natural thing to do and it has been ever since. We believe this is a must in developing a Christian marriage.

Family times have also been important – sitting down together for meals,

communicating, taking an interest in each other and in what the children were doing, sharing Bible stories and praying with them and for them at an early stage. Holidays were great. Most years when the children were young we would set off with a caravan in tow, loaded with bikes and a boat on the roof!!

Putting God first and serving Him is also a priority – we were running youth and children’s meetings together before we married and continued for many years after. It was not unusual to have 30 or 40 children crammed into our lounge. No CRB checks or Child Protection Policies in those days!! We also had some very special times leading annual youth camps and it was tremendous to see many young people come to Christ, some are now serving in church leadership.

Our Christian faith has also affected the way we view our possessions. We have been blessed materially and we don’t take that for granted but we are not ‘owners’ but ‘managers’. Material things are temporary and they’re to be used to bless others.

Princess Diana when being interviewed many years ago said that the problem with her marriage was that there were three people in it. Well, that’s not been a problem for us – Christ has been that third person. We have always sought to have him at the centre. **We cannot and will not ever be able to claim that we have got everything right – far from it –** and life has not been without its challenges but He has always been there for us, to give wisdom and guidance as we have shared our concerns through prayer.

Another aspect of our lives together has been our interest in and support for world mission, birthed from our early days as young people and also inherited from Janet’s parents. They never owned a passport but their support for all sorts of missionary organisations was inspiring. It’s been good to be informed of what is happening in the Christian church throughout the world – many amazing stories – and much persecution. In recent years we have had the privilege of visiting some of these areas, particularly India and Uganda. Little did we imagine that this would be our experience some forty years ago.

One of the songs we sung together all those years ago included the following lines:

*I do not know what lies ahead, the way I cannot see,
Yet one stands near to be my guide, He’ll show the way to me.*

And a verse from the Psalms has also meant a lot to us:

This God is our God forever and ever, He will be our guide even to the end.

Following Christ has certainly made a difference in our marriage and we would commend the Christian faith to all who read this and pray also that William and Kate will discover this dynamic as they set off on married life together

Ron & Janet Goodenough

We have been married for nearly three years, and like Prince William and Kate, we were going out for several years before we got married. We feel this has helped to build a good foundation for married life, as it gave us time to find out what made each other 'tick' and the opportunity to get to know each others interests and values. As Christians we asked an Elder of our previous church if he and his wife would lead us through a course in Christian marriage, a few months before 'the big day'. We found it extremely useful as it highlighted that marriage is two persons becoming one, you need to compromise, put one another first, and that it is important in our busy lives to find time to spend together and communicate, these being some important factors in having a happy, healthy marriage. Being a Christian does not automatically give you protection from the pressures of married life, but if you are both inputting the same set of values into your marriage, then most issues can be resolved before they become a problem. Are we enjoying married life? Yes!

Chris and Nicki Glaister

The Fellowship

The meeting this month is on Wednesday 25th May at 2:30 p.m.

Our speaker is Mac Turner, who will tell us all about;

‘Cattle Droving in Scotland.’

There will be a Bring and Buy stall, and we extend a very warm welcome to all.



Several members of the congregation (nine at last count) have joined “inChoir” which meets at St Joseph’s School in Haywards Heath once a week. No auditions needed .. but enjoyable, relaxing and somewhat crazy evenings guaranteed! We tackle all types of music including Motown, soul, pop, rock, disco, jazz and songs from modern stage musicals. You can find out more about inChoir from the website (www.inchoir.co.uk) or by contacting the Choir Director, Mark Heppell on telephone: 07711 870123; email mark@inchoir.co.uk. We have over 120 members in the Haywards Heath and East Grinstead choirs and a new one has recently started in Crawley.

Here are a few comments from the LURC inChoir gang:

I joined inChoir to have a chance to learn and sing popular songs. We have good fun, and there is no pressure to perform – yet I find that performing our songs gives a ‘buzz’! (Tim)

inChoir is a fun place to be, and we have quite a few laughs. I enjoy the variety of songs we sing, and love to take part when we sing to the public. (Janet Sanderson)

I am very enthusiastic about inChoir. Actually, it is quite hard not to be with such a lively and encouraging conductor! The rehearsals are fun, and at times, challenging as we sing popular songs, arranged specially for inChoir in 3, 4 or 5 part harmony. (Fo)

A friend recommended singing as an aid to fighting depression as singing with other people can be a very uplifting experience. Its great fun, we have lots of laughs with the choir leaders and for me it is the high spot of my week.

We raise money for charity through performing in shopping centres and theatres. (Margaret Gomme)

I find it relaxing and fun. There is never any pressure (which is so important). It is lovely to meet familiar faces but also nice to meet new people. I’ll always be grateful to a friend from Haywards Heath for encouraging me to go along with her. (Alison Ward)

Do come along and join in you must be prepared for Mark’s awful jokes though! ... and if you don’t feel like actually singing perhaps you’d like to come and see inChoir in action - we will be singing at Lindfield Arts Festival on May 14th, and Village Day Centenary Show, June 4th.
Helen Hall and “inChoirers”.

May Mission Giving – Operation Mobilisation Moldova

As a church we have regularly supported the work of OM across the world. This month we will be allocating our giving to their work in Moldova.

“Where is that?” you may ask. Well, it is tucked between Romania and the Ukraine. It has rich agriculture land with unfulfilled potential.

Europe’s poorest nation with continuing unresolved political problems, lack of industry, economic dependence on Russia with still the lingering effects of Communism.



Most people are desperately poor with the average income around £1,200 per annum (£23 per week) barely enough to keep warm in the extreme winters.

OM established their work in Moldova in 1998 and now has over forty on the team being involved in a variety of ministries:

Training. The OM Moldova team works alongside existing churches to help them be more active in sharing the love of God, discipleship and developing new fellowships. They help to raise awareness of missions in churches and encourage Moldovan Christians to be more involved in local and world missions.

Sports Ministry is an important aspect of OM Moldova's ministry, with eighteen soccer teams trained by Christian coaches throughout the country. OM Moldova provides training for the coaches and organises tournaments and summer soccer and extreme games camps. The vision is to enlarge this ministry with volleyball and table tennis clubs

Relief & Development. Churches to operate day centres for the **poorest children** in their communities. They receive a hot meal, get help with their homework, learn from the Bible and have other activities. As many elderly people are left alone in the villages while their children go



abroad to find work, OM help churches run elderly care projects that provide a hot meal every day from Monday through Friday. If the elderly are able to come to the church, they receive their meal there; if not, they are served in their homes. Monthly food parcels are distributed particularly in the winter.

Other projects provide winter clothes and school supplies for poor children, benches for churches, and wells for families.

Business for Transformation. Moldova has a very high rate of unemployment, especially in the villages. This is the result of 70 years of oppression as a member of the former Soviet Union when private enterprise was forbidden. Nowadays, many people try to find work in other countries. In 2006, OM Moldova started to develop an infrastructure to enable the opening of micro-businesses and create new jobs. An intensive business course is hosted regularly and of the business plans submitted by the end of the training, some are selected to receive credit from OM Moldova. In the last five years 280 people have been trained, 140 of them received a loan to start their own business.

The latest edition of Operation World states that *'Moldova remains very fertile ground for the gospel, and believing churches continue to grow and multiply. There is a sense of increasing momentum as the gospel permeates deeper into Moldova through evangelism and church planting'*

More information is available at the mission display area. 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

Around and About HAYWARDS HEATH MUSIC SOCIETY

Saturday 7 May

Concert Royal

Jane Austen's Musical England

7.45 pm at St Wilfrid's.



May Church Diary



PLEASE NOTE REVISED TIMES FOR SECOND SERVICE.

1st Sunday	9.30am David Walters - Communion 11.15am David Walters 6.30pm David Jones	21st Saturday	8.45 — Prayer Meeting 9.30am at Evangelical Free
2nd Monday	Bank Holiday	22nd Sunday	9.30am Dan McQuillin 11.15am Dan McQuillin - Communion 6.30pm Cavan Wood
5th Thursday	House Groups meet.	24th Tuesday	7.45 In Touch group
7th Saturday	8.45 — Prayer Meeting 9.30am at Evangelical Free Church Spring-clean	25th Wednesday	2.30pm The Fellowship 7.30pm Elders Meeting
8th Sunday	9.30am The Pastor 11.15am The Pastor 6.30pm The Pastor - Healing and Communion	26th Thursday	8.00pm Church Prayer Meeting
12th Thursday	8.00pm Church Meeting	28th Saturday	8.45 — Prayer Meeting 9.30am at Evangelical Free
13th Friday	Lunch Fellowship Outing to Paradise Park	24th Sunday	10.30am The Pastor 6.30pm The Pastor
14th Saturday	8.45 — Prayer Meeting 9.30am at Evangelical Free 1.30pm Wedding	30th Monday	Bank Holiday Village Fun Run
15th Sunday	9.30am Ron Goodenough Fair Trade stall 11.15am Ron Goodenough 6.30pm Youth Service - Josh Thomas	*Please note these dates are correct at time of printing, but watch the weekly notices in case of change.*	
19th Thursday	House Groups meet.		

**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 May are as follows:-

May 1st	Philip Wren
May 8th	Steve Haggard
May 15th	Charles Martin
May 22nd	Matthew Wren
May 29th	Philip Wren

FLOWER ROTA



Arranging

Distributing

May

1st Winifred Scopes	Sue Tester
8th Boys Brigade	Barbara Shepherd
15th Fiona Tingley	Jo Bloxham
22nd Heather Swann	Iris Bingham
29th Janet Wade	Heather Swann

June

5th Mies Campling	Janet Sanderson
12th Brian Tuppen	Sue Tester
19th Gladys Porter	Barbara Shepherd
26th Mary Comber	Jo Bloxham

Distribution Rota

If anyone is able to offer help with distributing on Monday mornings please contact 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 served between the morning services.

The **11:15am service** is a traditional service.

(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.

YOUTH PAGES

Hi all! In this month's *GoodNews*, Tom McQuillin writes about meeting Football Focus presenter Dan Walker and hearing all about his faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Josh

Dan Walker - Football vs. Faith

On the evening of the 23rd of March, Alex Jeffs, Cliff Griffiths, Josh Thomas our youth worker and I, Tom McQuillin, attended a talk by Dan Walker. Dan works for BBC Sport but because of his faith in the Lord Jesus, he refuses to work on a Sunday. His talk was based on the fact that many people disagree with this opinion so he was explaining to us which should come first; his football, or his faith.



As a young adult and child, Dan had one huge passion and that was sport. He used to think he was going to become a professional footballer but then decided he would actually prefer to talk about sport as he found out he wasn't actually that good. He commentated on women shopping in the supermarket or kids running down his road; wherever he was, Dan always practised this skill he loved. But as a child, Christianity and God didn't quite click with him. He knew everything and could say things like the names of the disciples or all the occurrences of Holy Week by the power of his mind but not from his heart. However, at the age of about 13 he heard a talk which was inspirational to him. Everything finally made sense and he realised what it all meant. He understood that God is in our lives and Dan felt the power of his love in his heart. He wanted to acknowledge this and worship God until the day he died.

Dan did have ambitions for his job and everything he wanted to do – as a child he dreamed about scoring in the Champions League Final or making a putt in the Masters' – but these were accompanied with the immense ambitions he had for his faith. He claimed his job is only 2 — 3% of what matters most to him, his faith is the inspiration behind everything that he does and if he could tell the world about Christ, he would. This belief and faith in God led him to an unending marvel at how lucky he was. This was all given to him by God and Dan felt he had to respect this and needed to recognise God in his life. But why would he want to turn down the great opportunities he had? What was the point in all of this?

Many people who have a lot aren't necessarily very happy. Rich and famous people regularly worry that friends might just be with them for their power and/or money. This could lead to miserable depression or paranoia. But Dan explains how this relates to his job and his view on faith with an analogy of houses. You could have a massive house with everything in it sitting on a mountain slope with a view that allows you to see a beautiful valley with a small stream running through it; you will look grand from the outside but the heating isn't on. But you could have a small apartment above the Co-operative on Lindfield High Street which houses four people in one bedroom but the heating can be on. You might not look so great from the outside but you can call it home and can feel safe and secure in its warmth. For Dan, God is this source of happiness and we need to let Him into our lives and take time to accept him so that we can be in His safe hold and feel the warmth of His love. He doesn't care that he doesn't look great from the outside because he has let God into his life and He is supplying a never-ending bliss in his life. As Dan said these things I briefly looked round the room and the hundred faces gazing out at him. Everyone was completely absorbed in this idea and amazed by this shelter he talked about.

Dan went on to talk about a time when he rejected the best offer he had ever been presented with. He received a reply from the employer stating that he was angry and frustrated with Dan but this was undermined by a fantastic sensation of respect! That is how I and many other people in that room now feel. He could have everything yet is choosing to replace this with God's glory. Dan is acknowledging God for everything that He has done for him. Dan explained that if this 'beggar from Nazareth' (H.G. Wells) really was the most prominent figure in our history; we should take time to respect this and thank Him for it.

Once the talk had finished Alex, Josh and I approached Dan and asked him to sum up his faith in a few words for this article. This is what he said: 'I Love my job... but for me my faith in Jesus is more important than anything... and your relationship with Him is paramount.' So as I sit here in my home writing this, I look at that quote and feel a little bit changed inside and hope it has inspired others as well. Dan Walker has clearly worked very hard to get where he is today but I mostly respect his faith and belief. The heating in his home is clearly working at full capacity!

Practical tips on Prayer (Part 3)

This month, in our series “Practical Tips on Prayer”, I want to share some thoughts about using the Psalms.

Last month I described them as a well-spring in our relationship with God. That’s because they cover the full range of human emotion – praise and wonder, guilt and fear, joy and sorrow, hope and despair – there’s nothing that we could possibly feel that is not expressed somewhere in this wonderful book of the Bible.

Right at the beginning I said that our first thought, as we come to pray, should be this:

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’s where God wants us to be, conscious of His love and grace, because that’s the place from which everything else springs.

Developing a prayer life is not so much about concentrating on our concerns, our need of forgiveness and the anxieties we all have to cope with. It’s much more about getting to know God and so I would recommend you begin with one of the Psalms that fixes our attention on Him.

The one I use every day is Psalm 95. It’s full of wonder and praise for God’s creative power. Saying it out-loud is like standing on a mountain-top and breathing in lung-fulls of glorious fresh air. To balance that, it ends with a warning, reminding us of what happened when God’s people grumbled against Him in the wilderness. It was a moment they never forgot, because it showed the result of refusing to listen to Him.

Other Psalms which express praise and worship are Psalms 27, 34, 103 and 150. I always find it best to say these praise Psalms out-loud, but we are all different and you may find it better to say them in the silence of your heart.

The wonderful thing about the Psalms is that they are absolutely honest. The people who wrote them didn’t say only what they thought other people expected them to say. That’s why sometimes they seem a bit blood-thirsty and vengeful, but that’s also why they are so useful.

God wants us to be real. He's fed up with people who pretend and if you feel like knocking someone's block off, then tell Him! You won't get carte blanche to go and do it, but He won't tell you off either. He'll listen and then show you that the way you are feeling is doing you no good.

One of the constant problems we all experience in prayer is wandering thoughts. They are like a pack of hounds that go sniffing in all directions. It's almost impossible to martial them. What we need is a big pen to keep them in one place and that's what the Psalms can provide.

When we are conscious of being in God's presence, most of us have things to confess and we have scriptural warrant that if we confess our sins and sincerely turn away from them, He has promised to forgive us. (See I. John 1:9) The following Psalms are useful as we seek God's forgiveness –

Psalms 25, in which David confesses not just his need of forgiveness, but his longing for a deeper, closer relationship with God.

Psalms 32, in which David testifies to the joy and relief of knowing you are forgiven. Verse 5 is a clear foreshadowing of the promise in I. John 1:9.

If you are feeling really convicted and you believe you have let God down spectacularly, Psalm 51 will bring you face to face with your sin, but will also give you words with which to express your repentance and find mercy. Psalm 130 is another which expresses deep repentance.

If you want to offer your gratitude to God and you can't find words, try Psalms 40 and 42.

Maybe you are feeling frustrated and a bit cheesed off. Psalm 73 was written by a man who felt just like that.

If you want to be reminded of God's love and care, read Psalm 23, 84 or 91.

If you just want to get close to God and gain a deeper relationship of trust in His faithfulness, there is no better tool to use than Psalm 139.

I hope you will never find yourself in the throes of despair, but even if you should, the Psalms will come to your rescue. David was near despair when he wrote Psalm 38.

This is by no means an exhaustive list. It's just a few suggestions for you to use when your prayer life becomes too introspective.

Next month we'll be thinking about Intercession.

Charles S Martin

Women behaving Silently!

At the Alpha Away Day back in November 2010 Tina Elphick and Jenny Martin were discussing the "Big Silence" - a programme which followed people, some with a Christian faith some with no faith at all, as they entered a time of silence. Jenny had been on retreats before and recommended it to us. So, eight rooms were booked and in April 2011 eight of us packed our bags to go to St Cuthman's Retreat Centre in Coolham. Tina Elphick, Jenny Martin, Carol Merrett, Pat Phillips, Fiona Flett, Val Cookney, Julie Fenwick (from the Alpha course) and me. Sadly, on the morning of departure day Pat suffered an accident which required a visit to the hospital so she was unable to join us.

St Cuthman's has a beautiful setting with glorious grounds, a large lake and woods, a simple but striking chapel and we were blessed with perfect weather.

I was apprehensive about the silent bit and I don't really like being on my own without the busy-ness of life but God blessed me with his presence and surprised me that with him as my focus I was perfectly content. There was no expectation from anyone - I had a sense of release. I found myself smiling as I sat in the sun, read, and walked, drew - not a gifting (!) but enjoyable never-the-less, watched butterflies and tried to identify the wild flowers in the wood. I was not bored - I revelled in the peace and a sense of being held in God's arms and His encouragement to "press on".

The meals were delicious and eaten in silence! I thought this would seem very strange but actually it would have seemed stranger to chat through the meal and then resume silence. I discovered that there is companionship in silence.

I would recommend a Silent Retreat to you! I never thought it would be for me but I am looking forward to next year when I can do it all again!

Lydia Goodchild

What a wonderful weekend - a very special experience. I do feel very blessed to have been there....

I have tried to write a few words but feel there is so much more I could express - however, as succinctly as possible, here is a résumé.

"What has a Silent Retreat meant to me? As a child my mother used to tell me "Listen to the silence" and I never really understood. After a weekend spent in beautiful surroundings at St. Cuthmans, I too have learned to listen to the silence, which is filled with so many expressions of God's Love. A retreat may seem a daunting prospect and even the word may sound negative, but this weekend has been incredibly positive and uplifting. My mind has quietened, my spirits have soared and my senses have been enhanced by so much beauty around me. God

has spoken to me in so many ways: the silence, the birdsong, the towering trees, the gambolling lambs, the wonderful food, the walks, the sunshine, the smiles and silent companionship, the books.... the list is endless. Being "on retreat" has been a real blessing and an experience not to be missed. Thank you Lydia for organising such an amazing weekend."

Relaxation and renewal

Exhilarating

Trees and tea!

Rejoice

Energising

Amarzing love

Trust

Carol Merrett

I would like to share with you some thoughts on our silent retreat weekend away at St. Cuthmans, Coolham near Horsham.

The Sound of Silence:-

Quietly sitting in the sunshine, can you hear the silence?

I can hear the blue tits twittering in the Cherry blossom tree, I can hear the Lambs bleating in the far away fields, I can hear a Woodpecker behind me, I can hear a Peacock call,

I can hear the traffic sound and an aeroplane overhead, I can hear the calming water rippling, And the wind as it gently rustles the leaves, But most of all I can **feel** God's still silence.

As the weekend progressed and my thoughts were running awry, I heard the verse from Psalm 116 verse 1,

He heard my voice,

He heard my cry,

He turned his ear to listen,

I will call on him as long as I live.

Amen

Thank you all, for your quiet companionship and the beauty we could all share, a special weekend.

Fiona Flett

(Continues overpage)

Absolute Silence!

At the end of the retreat weekend we had an opportunity to chat and share some of our thoughts and 'happenings' during the past few days. Tina related the following....

A short distance from St Cuthman's was a Quaker Meeting house. Tina walked there on Sunday morning and as she was arriving she saw Carol leaving. On entering the Meeting House Tina was met by a kindly gentleman who started chatting with her. He asked what she was doing. Tina explained that she along with six others were at St. Cuthman's on a silent retreat. When the gentleman heard that she was in a group he inquired if she in fact knew the lady that had just left the Meeting house before she arrived. 'Of course' replied Tina 'that was Carol, she is one of our group.' 'Ah' hesitated the man, and then rather cautiously added, 'pardon me but is she deaf and mute?'

Some of us took silence more literally than others!!

A Big 'Thank You'

Last month's Coffee and Cakes morning for the Sussex Air Ambulance Service, together with online and other donations, raised over £2000, for which the Service was extremely grateful. John, Heather, Beth and Emma would like to say 'Thank You' to all who came along, lovingly baked and donated cakes and donated the coffee, sent messages of encouragement, helped on the day and gave generously, so that the 'angels of the sky' can continue their life saving work.

The Sussex Service are holding an Open Day at Dunsfold Park on 12th June from 11am to 4pm and the Kent Service (who attended Heather after her accident) hold theirs at Marden on 24th July. Billed as a Free Family Day Out, they will both have demonstrations by the emergency services and other activities for children. Check out the website at:
www.sussexairambulance.com .

John Barling

Answers to last month's picture Quiz:

A - Boot scraper, Lindfield URC.

B - The cow outside Glyn Thomas butchers.

C - Carpet in window of Lindfield Galleries.

D - Red Lion public house sign.

E - Giraffe outside Artifact art shop.

F - Part of window - Lindfield URC

G - Lindfield, Best Village sign, by Pond.

We hope that these were neither too easy, or hard!

COMMUNION PREPARATION

We need two more people to help prepare the Communion Table for the 11.15 Sunday Morning service due to retirements because of poor health.

As we have several people on the rota already your 'turn' only occurs three times a year so not too arduous!

Please contact Carol Marsh (483500) for further information if you think you could help.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have been (and still are) involved in this service. It is very much appreciated!

YOUR HELP NEEDED

The managers will be having a Spring Cleaning Day on:

SATURDAY 7th MAY

9.00 am - 12.30pm

The church premises are kept very clean by our cleaning contractor week by week but once a year we need to have a good clean of areas that do not form part of the regular cleaning.

PLEASE JOIN US - MOP AND BUCKET IN HAND

Thanks

David Walters



What else is happening in the village?

Events in the King Edward Hall

Tuesday 3 May 10am to 8pm - "King Edward Hall Centenary & Lindfield in 1911" Exhibition.

Friday 6 May 9am to 12.15pm - Monthly Craft Market.

Saturday 7 May 10am to 12 noon - Horticultural Society Coffee Morning and Plant Sale.

Wednesday 11 May 8pm - Horticultural Society Talk : "Roses Now and Then".

Wednesday 11 May 1pm in **All Saints Church**

Sussex Flutes Concert.



Saturday 14 May 10am to 12 noon in **Compton House Garden** - Plant Sale

Saturday 14/Sunday 15 May: **Lindfield Arts Festival**

Various venues in Lindfield.



Saturday 4th June **Village Day**
1.30pm onwards on the Common



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)
- 11.15am Traditional 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
 - 5.45pm Boys' Brigade - Anchor Boys
(5–7 years)
 - 6.15pm Boys' Brigade - Junior Section
(8–11 years)
 - 7.15pm Boys' Brigade – Company
Section (11+ years)
 - Tue 10.00am Stepping Stones
(Parents and toddlers - term time)
 - 7.45pm In Touch (4th Tues) for women of
all ages
 - Wed 2.30pm The Fellowship (4th Wed)
for mature ladies and gentlemen
 - Thur 10.00am Pop-In (for coffee and a chat)
 - 8.00pm Church Meeting (2nd Thur)
 - Fri 7.15pm Zest (Years 6–9) games, craft,
tuck and a bible message
(term time)
 - Sun 8.00pm Youth Fellowship
- House Groups normally meet 1st and 3rd
Thursday

Church (payphone): 01444 484620

Charles Martin (Pastor)

Mobile No: 07821 904785

Josh Thomas (Youth Pastor)

Youth Office: 01444 487607

Mobile No: 07598 779553

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:

Anne Parker 01444 473519

Magazine Editor:

Val Cookney 01444 440029

The Fellowship:

Chris Comber 01444 482641

Stepping Stones:

Janet Goodenough 01444 417002

Transport:

Vacant

Zest Co-ordinator:

Josh Thomas 07598 779553

Lighthouse (Junior church)

Co-ordinator:

Dawn Walters 01444 441601

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



VILLAGE DAY 2011

Saturday June 4th

The 3 Churches Tea Tent open from 10:00

Serving :

**Tea, Coffee, Soft Drinks
and home made cakes**

ALL Welcome



Help Needed !!

Serving & Preparing
Teas, Coffees and
Cakes

Contact Clare Nibloe
or Dan McQuillin
for more info