

Good NEWS

From Lindfield United Reformed Church



J U N E 2012

Rejoice and be glad



- Bible by the Beach
- Absent friends
- The Queen's Jubilee



Bible passage for this month.

This is a text that could help and encourage us all to have faith and be optimistic, so that we can achieve our goals, with our Lord's help. This has sustained many through very demanding situations.

'I can do everything through Him, who gives me strength' Philippians Chapter 4 Verse 13.

Please think; do you have a special text for next month's Magazine that you could share with others? It can be good to bring special verses of the Bible to our attention that can help others in their daily life. Think if you can help?

WHOSE JOB?

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Anon.



Produced for Lindfield United Reformed Church,
50 High Street, Lindfield, West Sussex, RH16 2HL
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Editorial Team: Anne Elvin (Editor), Tim Sanderson, Martin Hall, Stuart Marsh.

Editorial Oversight: Val Cookney

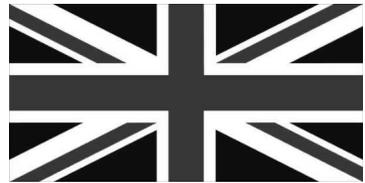
Proof-reading: Carol and Stuart Marsh.

Setting/Production: Tim Sanderson.

Printing: Editorial Team.

Next Copy Date: 10th June 2012.

All contributions should be emailed to goodnews@lindfieldurc.org.uk, or hard copy placed in the "GoodNEWS" pigeon hole at the rear of the church. Please ensure that you include your contact details in case of query. You can contact Anne Elvin on 01444 456840.



What an exciting month this is. We have the 'Energise' weekend away at Pilgrim Hall, which is a highlight of our Church's year. It is good that as a Church family we are all looking to share fellowship and learn more about Jesus.

We hope you enjoy sharing the experiences of members attending the Youth Weekend and 'Bible on the Beach'.

We have news from members of our congregation who have moved abroad.

There are many celebrations to be held in honour of our Queen's Diamond Jubilee, this brings back many memories for us all. I trust you will enjoy reading a few from our members.

Anne.

DIRECTORY



Pastor: Rev. Charles Martin

Tel: 01444 482098 Mob: 07821 904785

Youth Pastor: Josh Thomas

Mob: 07598 779553

Church Secretary:

Sue Waller

58, Queens Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 1EE

Tel: 01444 455047

Email: waller.s@sky.com

Church Treasurer:

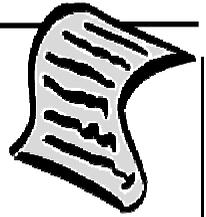
Michael J Davies Tel: 01444 482024

13, Savill Road, Lindfield, RH16 2NY

Email: michael.j.davies21@btinternet.com

(All may be contacted via the 'pigeon holes').

Dear Friends,



Later this month, we shall be enjoying our Church Weekend-Away at Pilgrim Hall – Energise 2012. The whole country will be gripped with Olympic and Jubilee fervour, but our thoughts will be on other things.

Our speaker – Paul Stokes – is a URC Minister from Plymstock in Devon. He’s one of the people set aside by the Group for Evangelism and Renewal to encourage churches to grow in depth and understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit. He’s also one of the authors of a book called “Growing the Church in the Power of the Holy Spirit” so I’m looking forward both to glimpsing a new vision for our fellowship and being encouraged and challenged in my personal walk with the Lord.

Every church and every individual believer needs both challenge and encouragement. If you get the balance wrong, problems inevitably follow. There’s a story told about Woodrow Wilson who was President of the United States at the time of the First World War.

His father was a Presbyterian Minister and as a lad, Woodrow Wilson would go with him when he was visiting members of the congregation. They travelled in a horse-drawn trap and on one occasion, when they were about to leave, their host remarked that while the minister looked rather thin, the horse was well-groomed and healthy. Woodrow Wilson replied that that was because while his father fed the horse, the congregation fed the minister.

We all need to hear that God cares for us – and He does! The Bible says so unequivocally in 1 Peter 5:6 & 7

“Humble yourselves therefore under God’s might hand that He may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.”

But that has to be balanced by Jesus’ uncompromising challenge in St. Mark 9:34

“If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for Me and for the Gospel will save it.”

My prayer for Energise 2012 is that we’ll get the balance right.

With sincere good wishes from your Pastor and friend,

Charles S. Martin

Prayer Focus

This month we are looking forward to being away together for 'Energise 2012' – 22nd to 24th June. We need to soak this in prayer and be open to what God wants to say and do amongst us as we focus on Him.



Please pray for:

The Planning Group

Our speaker; Paul Stokes

The youth and children's leaders

Pray that from the youngest to the oldest we will hear from the Lord and move on with Him

Janet Goodenough

BOYS' BRIGADE

At the end of April, the Brighton Battalion held its annual holiday weekend at Carrot Wood, a Rock UK Christian holiday centre for children near Tonbridge. Over 50 Boys and staff attended, including Robbie, Brandon and Terry Ward from Lindfield. The weather was some of the wettest ever, but the Boys didn't mind in the least getting thoroughly muddy!



Just a reminder that the BB is an important asset as it is the only agency in the Church currently working on a weeknight with 5-11 year old boys. Please encourage parents with boys in that age group to bring them along on Monday evenings, and build up this age group.

Geoffrey Cocksedge, Captain

THE FELLOWSHIP

We meet on Wednesday 27th June at 2.30pm.

We welcome back Sarah Tapp who will speak of the History of Christ's Hospital School.

There will be a bring and Buy Stall and after the talk tea and biscuits will be served. A warm welcome is extended to all, and we are always pleased to greet new members.

Winifred Scopes

House Groups.

It's great to be able to report that House Groups are going well. The feedback has been very positive following the changes at the beginning of the year. The evening groups have been studying the first twelve chapters of Acts, which is a very exciting and indeed challenging part of the New Testament. It's been great to get to know different people in the groups and that in itself is very healthy. The daytime groups have continued to meet faithfully and have completed their study of Bible Characters.

I would like to personally thank all the leaders for their commitment to this vital part of church life and for the pastoral support that is given to many house group members much of this 'behind the scenes'. It's great to have some 'new' leaders who have taken on this role from January; others have been faithful in leadership for many, many years. You are appreciated!

Ron Goodenough

The Wider World

Pastor Youcef Nardakhani.

There is more news for those of you who have been following the plight of Youcef Nadakhani, the pastor in Iran who has been in prison with the threat of a death sentence hanging over him since October 2009,

The sole attorney representing and fighting his cause has reportedly been arrested and sentenced to nine years in prison for alleged acts violating national security and spreading propaganda against the regime. He has also been barred from practising law for ten years. As there is no-one else prepared to fight Nadakhani's case this places him in further jeopardy.

The Pastor remains in prison after it was reported that an execution order had been handed down by the courts in February, but at the time of writing it is believed that he is still alive. We pray for him, his wife and two young sons.

Marriage Petition

So far, more than 500,000 people have signed the petition on defence of traditional marriage. The petition, from the Coalition for Marriage (C4M) calls upon the Government to retain the current definition of marriage between one

man and one woman. It was launched in opposition to to the Government's plan to widen the definition of marriage to include gay couples.

Colin Hart, Campaign Director of C4M, said that marriage has been the bedrock of society for a thousand years and that the Government should think carefully before they unravel an institution that has served Britain so well. He also says: *"In today's fast-moving world the continuity of marriage as a union between one man and one woman is something we should be celebrating, not changing."*

"The campaign proves that the British people reject the plans. With half a million signatures the Government must listen to their voters."

Freedom for Christians

It seems that the UK is not alone in the Western world in disputes over the wearing of Christian symbols or slogans. An 18 year old student in Novia Scotia, Canada was handed a five day suspension for wearing a T-shirt with the words "Life is Wasted Without Jesus".

A legal spokesman for the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, who have been fighting the ban for the student says that schools and colleges should not act in cases like this where no harm or offence was meant. The student believes that is worth standing up for his rights both for freedom of speech and religion. So far, the college concerned has refused to comment.

Carol Marsh

FAMILY NEWS

There are a number of folk in our Church Family who are unwell, facing surgery or struggling with problems of one kind or another. Please pray for them.

Stuart and Carol Marsh would like to thank you all for your prayers for their grandson, Samuel, who had to undergo a three-hour heart operation when he was only 10 days old. He is now home and progressing well.

Diamond Wedding

Congratulations to Donald and Audrey McKee, who celebrate 60 years of marriage on 28 June.

Youth Pages

'Hello all', in this month's Youth Pages we take a look back to our summer camp, which happened on May 11th - 13th at Blackland Farm. We also look forward to some exciting events coming up over the next few months!

Josh

Future events.

We have many exciting things due to happen over the next few months. Here are some details and dates to put in your diaries!

13th – 17th August – Summer Holiday Club

This will be for all those aged between 5 and 10 years old. We will be having so much fun playing games, doing crafty things, singing songs and learning all about Jesus. We will be running between 9.30am-12.30pm each day but please keep a look out for more details in the next Church magazine.

In order to make this week a great success I need volunteers to help out during the week, if you think you could spare even a few hours during that week please send me an email to jthomas@lindfielddurc.org.uk.

29th October – 2nd November – Drama week

During October half term we are really excited to be working with Theatre Express to put on a week of drama and performing arts. This week will be for all those aged 11-18 and we will be writing, practicing and performing our very own production at the end of the week. Parents, friends and anybody else interested will be invited to join us on Friday 2nd November at 8pm for the final performance.

For more details email Josh.

3rd - 4th November – Youth weekend away

We will be taking a group to St Bartz residential centre in Barcombe. After an exhausting week of drama what better way to celebrate than going away with your friends? For more info please email Josh.

Youth Camp 2012

On the weekend of 11th - 13th May 2012 Zest and the Boys Brigade have once again teamed up to take a group to Blackland Farm Campsite for a weekend of fun, fellowship and worship. We arrived on the Friday evening and set up tents

before playing a game of rounders. After some dinner we gathered around the campfire and enjoyed a time of games and fun.

The next morning after a very cold night we rose and had breakfast together. We were then led in worship by Alex Jeffs and members of 'Bernard' our youth band. We were able to study the parable of the lost son together and reflect on what it meant that God's love, like the fathers love is never ending for us no matter how much we get things wrong.

The rest of the day was packed with fun activities such as archery, swimming, a wide game, football and a quiz.

In the evening we were joined by our minister Charles for a Barbeque and he then led our time of worship, before another wide game and a late night film which rounded off a fun packed day.

On Sunday morning Josh led worship after breakfast, before we headed off to go kayaking. This was a fun activity and many of the boys ended up getting wet. The girls however were a little more reluctant to get wet! After lunch we played a game of it's a knockout before parents arrived.

The weekend was a great time of fellowship together and I would like to thank everyone who was there and made it such a special weekend.

Josh.



June Mission - Focus on Romania .

If you were around in Lindfield during the momentous events of 1989 when the winds of change swept through the Eastern Bloc you may remember the visit of a Christian worker from Operation Mobilisation who was in Bucharest at the time of Ceausescu's ousting and during the immediate aftermath of the revolution. As a direct result of his visit several members of the church corresponded with, prayed for and encouraged a Christian couple, Orest and Cristina, who with vision, enthusiasm, persistence and against many setbacks started an ongoing ministry amongst the poor, the orphaned, the Roma community and the youth of north eastern Romania, centred around the town of Radauti, not too far from the borders of the Ukraine and Moldova and an area which is also home to beautiful, frescoed monasteries.

The Romanian charity, The Hannah Foundation, was formed and the work taken over by Misu and Livia Ciobanu, another dedicated couple committed to sharing the love of Jesus with their fellow countrymen. Our contact with the work today, 20 years or so on, is through Dr Dickie Twort (a medical doctor with the Blood Transfusion Service in London) and the UK Charity, The



Cascaid Trust. Dickie (now fluent in Romanian) and his wife, Annie, members of King's Church, Catford, have visited our church on several occasions, keeping us updated on developments in Romania. In the past we have supplied clothing, bibles and books as well as funding towards particular needs. In 2001 Ron Goodenough and John Barling were guests at the annual summer camp in the foothills of the Carpathian mountains, sharing with around 50 youth from different parts of the country and from differing church backgrounds. Unusually, the young from Orthodox, Catholic, Pentecostal, Baptist, Charismatic and no church background, were having fun and studying together, exploring issues of life and faith.

During the same visit, they were also able to meet with Oti Banaciu and see the work of Project Ruth amongst Roma children in the poorest suburb of the capital, Bucharest. Project Ruth has also been supported by the

church as a result of Norna and Aubrey Derham's passion to get behind Oti in prayer and friendship.

Next year it is hoped that some of our own Lindfield youth will have opportunity to travel with Josh, our Youth Pastor, to one of the Hannah summer camps and experience first-hand a different language, culture and people and the amazing hospitality of those who have relatively little compared to the UK, but who are rich in faith. Sharing their own experiences and life stories with their Romanian counterparts will be an encouragement and blessing.

During June our mission giving will be for the charity, Hannah, channelled through Cascaid. Why not visit the display in the church concourse when you have a moment. If you would like to give to the ongoing work led by Misu and Livia please use the special envelopes available in the church. If appropriate please increase your gift by filling in a Gift Aid slip. Thank you – or as they would say in Romania – multsumesc!

Visit www.cascaid.org.uk for the full story. For youth and kids (and techno grannies) check out the iPad quiz with pictures and stories. Leave your email address at the Mission corner in the church concourse and we'll send it to you.

Missions Group



Romanian youth with one of the monasteries near Radauti.

June Church Diary



2/3/4/5 June - Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

2nd Saturday	8.45 — Prayer Meeting 9.30am at All Saints	16th Saturday	8.45 — Prayer Meeting 9.30am at All Saints
3rd Sunday	No services at LURC 11.15am Joint worship on the Common – Three Churches 6.30pm The Pastor	17th Sunday	9.30am Dan McQuillin Fair Trade 11.15am Dan McQuillin 6.30pm The Pastor
7th Thursday	House Groups	21st Thursday	House Groups
8th Friday	12:30 Lunch Fellowship	23rd Saturday	8.45 — Prayer Meeting 9.30am at All Saints
9th Saturday	8.45 — Prayer Meeting 9.30am at All Saints	24th Sunday	Church Away Weekend - No services at LURC
10th Sunday	9.30am Josh Thomas 11.15am David Jones 6.30pm Healing Service Communion - The Pastor	26th Tuesday	7.45pm In Touch
13th Wednesday	12:30 Lunch Fellowship	27th Wednesday	2.30pm The Fellowship 7.30pm Elders meeting
14th Thursday	8.00pm Church Meeting	28th Thursday	8.00pm Church Prayer Meeting
		30th Saturday	8.45 — Prayer Meeting 9.30am at All Saints



Sunday Services explained...

The **9.30am service** is an opportunity for all age groups to join in a relaxed informal time. Most weeks, children leave after 20 minutes for their own activities (including crèche). Lighthouse (Junior church) is for children and young people up to age 14
Holy Communion (1st Sunday)

Coffee is served between the morning services.

The **11:15am service** is a more traditional service than at 9:30.
Holy Communion (4th Sunday)

Where there is a fifth Sunday in the month, normally a joint service is held at **10:30am**.

At **6:30pm** it is sometimes a celebration, sometimes a quieter ministry time and sometimes an open communion service or something quite different!
Holy Communion (2nd Sunday)
Healing services as announced

Personal prayer is available after every service. 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.

The Church Week...

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. Venue rotates between the three churches.

Prayer requests and brief statements of praise for answered prayer can be put in the red book on the concourse table.

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

The church is open most mornings from 10.00am to 12.30pm

Absent Friends - Where are they now?

It is good to hear news of past members and friends of Lindfield URC and, thanks to Heather Swann we can catch up with a couple of former members this month.

Elise Burden - "It was good to talk with the son of Elise recently who assured me that she is keeping very well in the home at Axminster. There are about sixteen residents in total and, when possible, Elise is taken out into the locality, plus the family make regular visits too.

Occasionally Elise asks when she is going home again and still remembers the names of her friends here so Nick, her son, is happy to read any correspondence from Lindfield to her. If you would like to contact Elise her address is Tudor Cottage, 7-8 South Street, Axminster, Devon, EX13 5AD."

Hilary Greatwood - We have news from Hilary who moved to Perth in Australia just over eighteen months ago and who is now living in a residential home near her family. She writes that the staff are very dedicated and caring and she attends various exercise classes during the week but needs a zimmer now to help her get around. Members of her family come to visit her several times a week and on Sundays she is picked up by a lay preacher at the local Anglican church and taken to the morning service where everyone is friendly and welcoming.

Sadly, after starting her letter on a positive note, Hilary goes on to say how much she still misses life in Lindfield - the URC church, her house group, church friends and the village itself. The decision for her to move to Perth so suddenly was a big shock to her and she is obviously still rather overwhelmed by it all and says she thinks of us all every day.

....and from Fiona Flett:

Dear Friends from Lindfield URC,

I am still enjoying life here in Australia, even though we are now going into winter. The sun was shining today and it was a very pleasant 17 degrees while I was working in the garden, pulling weeds, some things never change the world over !

In many ways life is very similar to life back in the UK. I have been working

for the last 6 weeks in a small birthing centre, in Berwick, which has 10 birth rooms and 17 postnatal beds. The challenges are the same, "I get too tired, I can't do it"! The same expressions are similar the world over. The one drawback at this unit is that the Doctors or theatre teams are twenty to forty minutes away if we need them. We have to give strong, positive encouragement to get a beautiful baby at the end of a hard labour.

I go back to my usual work at the high risk unit next week, so I look forward to sitting a little more, watching the monitors and the Doctors coming in for the birth.

I have been attending an Anglican Church for a few Sundays since the New Year. The Baptist church I had been attending had a 10.30am Christmas day service then nothing till the first week in January, so it was difficult for me to attend, with my work rota. I also found I disagreed with some of the sentiments the pastor came out with, so thought I should try another Church that embraced our talents and didn't call them the work of the evil one!

I do miss my Lindfield Church family, and all my lovely friends, I miss our Mission Suppers and the Music group and the wonderful preaching of God's word. I still feel however that when we have a purpose to fulfil and a dream to follow, God will open our eyes and has called us by name. Wherever we are or whatever we are all facing, God knows and will sustain us.

I know this edition of the Church magazine is the Jubilee edition, but so far I haven't heard of anything in particular for the Jubilee celebrations here in Melbourne. One friend said 'we are only colonials you know'. I wasn't sure what to say to that really? I did go to the Anzac Day memorial service which is very like our Remembrance day service, it was very moving.

Anyway I will end on a positive note.

God is good, he is the light in our day, he is in our smile, in our thoughts, and gives us hope. He is in every tear that waters our soul and in every moment we can't face alone.

Every Blessing to you all,

Much Love in Christ.

Fiona Flett



We have now been to several **Bible by the Beach** weekends and they just get better!! This year's focus was on Christ in all the Scriptures, and indeed that



was the overriding impression left. It is all about Jesus, from beginning to end.

The opening session reminded us that we all start by being 'in Adam' but by sovereign Grace we are now 'in Christ' and nothing now can take that away from us. In the Bible Readings we saw in Isaiah that Jesus the Servant King arrived and came to restore and to save. From Revelation 12 we were encouraged to know that 'behind the scenes' of our everyday life, in the spiritual realm, Jesus has the victory and Satan has been cast down. There was so much more besides too.

The times of worship were a joy to be a part of as 100's of people sung the praises of our God.

Val Cookney

The visit to **Bible by the Beach** was a refreshing re-focus upon Jesus, our suffering servant. Each session majored on Him in a satisfying revisiting of Truth. The talks were entirely centred on our Lord, and were delivered in easily-followed styles. Stuart Townend's "country-and-western" style band enhanced the worship with fairly muted renditions! Halleluiah!

Janet Drayton

Bible By The Beach. Great weekend; Stephen Gaukroger was the speaker for the Bible Readings, looking at Isaiah and reminding us that in the midst of brokenness The Servant King is in the restoration business. Rico Tice spoke powerfully about the brevity of life and the need to know where we are going. Stuart Townend led the worship and the Saturday evening concert. It was a privilege and a blessing to be there!

Ron Goodenough

Eastbourne is typically seen as a classic English seaside town, however for me, it is fast becoming a hub for Christian events. It came as a surprise to me to find that **Bible by the Beach** was at the same venue as 'youth work: the Conference', both of which I have been blessed to attend. I found them to be very similar; excellent worship, wonderful speakers, and an atmosphere only found where a large group of Christians meet.

I went to a talk by Carl Beech which was about developing relationships with men within the Church, which was of great use. Although I can't see myself leading men's groups for a number of years yet, to understand what men want to see in a Church, and what we can do to fulfil those needs, was very helpful.

Finally, thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend this excellent event, it has been a valuable experience, and I certainly hope I can go next year!

Yours in Christ, Alex Jeffs

What a weekend! Great worship, varied and challenging teaching, and the chance to meet other Christians. It was especially good to meet with brothers and sisters from a wide range of church backgrounds, to put names to faces from the local area, and particularly get to know our friends from Lindfield better.

There are so many memories and things to mull over, so perhaps two examples will suffice –

Gerald Bray brought a series of seminars speaking about Jesus as "Prophet, Priest and King". He described how many Christians accept Jesus' words and teaching as prophetic (speaking the very words of God); that we willingly accept His salvation brought through death and resurrection. Sometimes we fail to go on to accept Jesus as King and Lord. Gerald challenges us all to enter into the fullness of Christ's three-part work and ministry to us.

The second moment of "penny dropping" came from Stephen Gaukroger. Stephen showed how Christ is seen as the suffering Servant-King in Isaiah

chapters 52-53. He spoke of how the suffering of Jesus appeared to be the final defeat for mankind, and victory for Satan, and compared this to the desperate state of the people of Israel at the time. To illustrate the way God turns defeat around, Stephen told us about a picture, hung in a secular gallery. This shows a chess match, with a triumphant Devil smirking over a downcast Christian – and bears the title “Check-mate”. However, a chess master looked at the picture, and asked to see the artist. When confronting the artist, the master stated “The King has one more move yet!!” Yes – even in the depths of apparent defeat, we can be sure that our King Jesus has the final move of victory.

Tim Sanderson

I was quite apprehensive about going to ‘Bible by the Beach’, but I was pleasantly surprised. I now realise that God is at work in other churches more than I thought.

We had some very good bible teaching, especially from Stephen Gaukroger, who preached about the Servant King arriving, restoring and saving. My understanding of what Jesus has fully done for me was made so much clearer. How can I not worship and adore Him? He is my wonderful Saviour.

Stuart Townend led us in joyful worship which I really enjoyed. It was brilliant to worship with so many other Christians. Praise the Lord!

Janet Sanderson

Thank you from Audrey and Chris Saunders.

A big thank you to all our Church friends who have prayed, visited and cared for us during the past difficult year. What a caring Church we have.

Ray is now in Forest View Residential Home in Burgess Hill.

Audrey and Chris Saunders.

FLOWER ROTA



Arranging

Distributing

June 2012

3rd Audrey Mckee	Fiona Tingley
10th Brian Tuppen	Sue Tester
17th Zoe McQuillin	Barbara Shepherd
24th No Flowers - Energise Weekend	

July 2012

1st Barbara Shepherd	Iris Bingham
8th Audrey Saunders	Heather Swann
15th Winifred Scopes	Janet Sanderson
22nd Fiona Tingley	Fiona Tingley

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:
Sue Waller 01444 455047

Friday:
Anne Parker 01444 473519

Magazine Editor:

Anne Elvin 01444 456840

The Fellowship:

Chris Comber 01444 482641

Stepping Stones:

Janet Goodenough 01444 417002

Transport (Car Czar):

Janet Drayton 01444 483621

Zest Co-ordinator:

Josh Thomas 07598 779553

Lighthouse (Junior church)

Co-ordinator:
Dawn Walters 01444 441601

Balcombe United Reformed Church

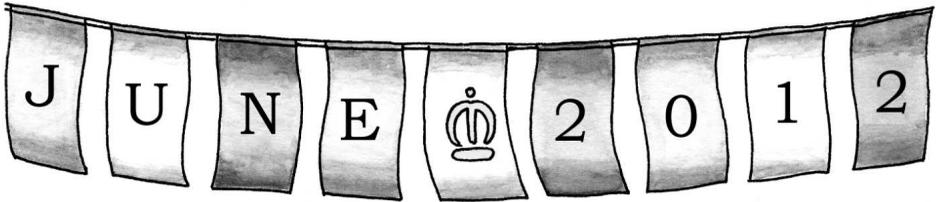


Bramble Hill, Balcombe RH17 6HR

Our services are held weekly at 10.30am. Visitors are welcome to join us. *Speakers for June are as follows:*

June 3rd	Matthew Wren
June 10th	Philip Wren
June 17th	Charles Martin – Communion
June 24th	Philip Wren

A Celebration of our Queen's Diamond Jubilee



Somewhere in a box in the roof-space in Ryecroft, there is a book with the wonderful title “Fifty Glorious Years”. It’s a pictorial record of the life and reign of our present Queen’s grandfather – King George Vth. When she was a little girl she used to call him “Grandpa England.” As a boy I loved to pour over the pictures, because there before me were some of the people my history teachers used to talk about – Lloyd George and Ramsey MacDonald, proud, fierce Kaiser Wilhelm and jovial corpulent King Edward VIIth, after whom the King Edward Hall is named and whose liking for female company earned him the nickname “Edward the Caresser.” Someone else’s picture is there too – Queen Victoria. She is shown in various poses, all with her characteristically impassive expression of mild disapproval, but the one which fascinated me as a child, is the picture of her own Diamond Jubilee – one of the very rare such events in the history of the British monarchy.

She is swathed in black and you can’t see her face, because she is wearing a large hat, sheltered by a parasol. She is ensconced in a carriage which appears to be stationary at the foot of the steps of St. Paul’s Cathedral. It is surrounded by onlookers and guardsmen and drifting down the steps themselves, rather like a saucepan of milk that has just boiled over, is the flow of white surplices worn by the clergy and cathedral choir. The service appears to be taking place outside in the bright sunshine. Presumably this is because of the ancient Queen’s inability to climb the steps herself, but it was taking a bit of a risk with the weather!

The book ends on a very poignant note, because it was published immediately after George Vth’s death, so on the last two pages are two pictures facing one another. One is of his coffin being carried away from Sandringham House on a gun carriage, with the title “*The King is dead.....*” The other is a picture of the new monarch – the young King Edward VIIIth, with the rest of the quotation as its title “*..... Long live the King!*” No one at the time knew that he would never be crowned. No one knew then that his brother Albert, the Duke of York would take his place and no one knew that after his death our country would be blest by his daughter, the lovely and gracious lady whose sixty years on the throne we celebrate this year.

I make no secret of my own respect and admiration for the Queen. I might even go

so far as to use the word “love”, but it seems slightly inappropriate, since I have never come within a hundred yards of her and although her eldest son and I share the same name, that’s about as much as she and I have in common. All the same, if I am around when she dies, I know I shall shed some tears and I am sure I won’t be the only one.

Ministers are not supposed to express political opinions and I’m probably taking a risk when I say that I believe the monarchy to be the best system to provide a Head of State that anyone could devise. How awful it would be if we had to pretend to look up to some pensioned off politician who had spent his time trying to hood-wink the voters! They wouldn’t last very long either. Unless we changed our Parliamentary system and adopted the structure they have in the United States and France, they would have to be appointed by the same group of cronies whose trust the electorate has so recently lost. NO! Give me the House of Windsor every time.

We have one priceless treasure in the Queen and that is her faith. Her last Christmas broadcast was centred on the value of faith and family. Her words and her presence came like a wonderful re-assurance that at least someone still has her feet on the ground.

The recent past has not brought her very much joy. Her children’s relationships have been fractured and the searing pain of Princess Diana’s death still resonates with some people. It must have been a nightmare of the Royal Family. Of course there have been some encouragements to balance the score. The wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge last year lifted everyone’s spirits and gave promise of a succeeding generation whose aim will be to serve the nation.

The Royal Family is not without its faults, but then neither is yours or mine, the difference is that we can hide our indiscretions behind a smoke-screen of privacy. They can’t. For all the pomp and ceremony, the gilded cage in which they live is a kind of prison. Maybe that’s why the man whose picture faces that of his father’s funeral – Edward the Un-crowned King – went so spectacularly wrong when he tried to make his own choices. We shall never know what sacrifices the Queen has made to serve the nation, but there’s no doubt in my mind that whenever there has been a painful decision to make, her people’s good has been in the forefront of her mind.

Feel free to disagree with my analysis of how the country should be governed, but spare me this thought. What other nation on the planet can claim to have such a devoted and committed Head of State? Some people think the monarchy is out of touch with ordinary people, but I would question that. It may have been out of touch in the days of Queen Victoria. That image of the tiny little figure swathed in black, sitting in a carriage under a parasol, surrounded by figures straight out of a comic opera may appear faintly ludicrous, but all that has changed.

In Elizabeth the Second we have an example to follow and a blessing for whom to

give thanks and when my grandchildren and great-grandchildren look at the pictures which will be taken in June this year, I trust they will remember that.

Charles Martin

A special visit from the Queen.

In the late 1950's I was employed as the Hospital Secretary of the King Edward V11 Hospital, Windsor, during which time the hospital had a visit by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I cannot remember the reason for this.

The hospital was spruced up for the visit, including a special cloakroom for Her Majesty's use. The Queen had only come from down the road from Windsor Castle, so I felt this was not really needed. I have two memories from this visit, firstly Her Majesty was late and secondly I had to go into town to buy a pink toilet roll for the new cloakroom!

Pat Phillips

Dressed in Red, White and Blue!

What do I remember about the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953? I was 11 years old and just about to leave my Junior School that summer to go to Secondary School in the September. Berkshire County Council gave every child a pale blue glass tumbler with a gold rim round the top. On the left side of the coat of arms there is a lion with a crown and on the right a unicorn, with a crown above and E II R under the crown. On the back of the tumbler is the crest for the Royal County of Berkshire with a deer standing under an oak tree. My mother bought me a pale blue floral dress and a hair ribbon in the coronation colours of red, white and blue. My father decorated the front of our house with Union Jack flags and along with all the neighbours we put pictures of the young Queen in our windows. One of the brackets to hold a Union Jack high above our front door and was still on the wall when the house was sold in 2010!

The actual day of the Coronation was wet and my sister and I and our cousin were taken by our grandmother to our auntie's house in Wokingham, Berkshire. She lived in a very old street in Wokingham with houses opening on to the pavement and it was very exciting as we were going to see television for the first time! Afterwards there was a street party outside the little terraced house in Rose Street with the street decorated with bunting and lots of sandwiches - probably paste or jam as it would have been in those days.

Enough of my reminiscing and I look forward to celebrating the Diamond Jubilee in June.

Rosemary Tijou

In Kenya and UK.

In 1947 I left Kenya for the UK and Glasgow University and was able to watch the wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Philip on the television on November 20th. This was a highlight for me having come from abroad. Aubrey was demobbed in 1947 from the RAF, and joined the Colonial Police, and was sent to Kenya.

In 1951 I returned to Kenya and in due course met Aubrey who was then posted to Zanzibar! In 1952 Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh were en route for a tour of Australia and stopped off in Kenya for a visit to the Tree Tops Hotel (actually built in the treetops), situated at a game watering hole which a great tourist attraction. They had barely arrived when sadly the King died on Feb 6th, the tour ended, and they returned to the UK and Princess Elizabeth became Queen of England. We all felt so sad for them.

Aubrey and I were married in July 1952, and so started our Diamond period, we had 12 years in Zanzibar. In that time there were two Royal visits. The first was Princess Margaret in July 1956 during a rather unhappy period in her life and the second the Duke of Edinburgh who represented the Queen at the Uhuru (freedom) celebration when Zanzibar became independent in 1963. Following that there were Election riots and then a Revolution which saw Aubrey rapidly leaving Zanzibar escorting the Sultan to safety. Our sojourn in the Isle of Cloves came to an end! Eventually we ended up in the UK and have been able to follow the Queen's Diamond years more closely.

Norna Derham

A memory that was so important to children at the time!

Carol Marsh [Neé Elcome] and Stuart Marsh were in the same school hall in 1952 when the death of King George VI was announced. The whole school were sent home!

Carol and Stuart Marsh

The Wedding ... and an OBE

My earliest memories of the Queen go back a long way to my childhood. The Queen and Princess Margaret were, within a year or two, the same ages as my sister and me. I remember the 'Play House' of the young Princesses had in the grounds of Windsor Park. Years later, in 1947 how thrilled we all were to watch the wedding of the Queen on the television, my Father had bought specially for the occasion, very different from the clear coloured pictures we have today. Later in the day my sister and I and two boys, who later were to become our husbands, went to Romsey, to stand at the gate of Broadlands, the home of Lord Mountbatten, to cheer the Royal Couple who were spending a few days there on their honeymoon. (continued over)

Forward to the Mid Sixties and to Buckingham Palace, my Father had been awarded the O.B.E. so my stepmother, my sister and I went to Buckingham Palace. The thrill of going through the gates and entering the Palace: it was not open to the public in those days. We walked up a wonderful red carpeted shallow staircase, with colourful guards standing at the sides; along the gallery and into the ballroom. We sat on the front row on elegant gilt chairs. In the gallery a band was playing. What impressed me so much was the friendly way the Queen greeted each recipient as if they were the only ones there, so gracious. We were proud of my Father, he bowed very well, having been rather nervous about it. It was altogether a lovely day, and one I shall never forget.

‘God Save the Queen.’

Winifred Scopes

Home and abroad

I have great affection for our royal family. My earliest memory of our Queen was seeing her Coronation on our neighbour’s television. Her visit to Canada was also wonderful when I saw all the horses and soldiers in their red uniforms. How I loved seeing the films which were shown at the cinemas, showing the highlights of the royal trip.

Having lived abroad it has made me realise how much our Queen and her family means to me.

I remember a moment when I attended a celebration breakfast in Buenos Aires, Argentina when Prince Charles was being married. I walked into the room, to see the London crowds on the television, tears streamed down my face. I just felt so homesick I felt should have been home in England, to share the joy of that day.

The Silver Jubilee also was a memorable day when my husband and I visited London to see our Queen make her journey to St Paul’s Cathedral in her fantastic horse driven coach. It was our first visit to any such occasion. The crowd were simply terrific, all the chatter, banter, laughter and high spirits that were so evident, this could only be found on the streets of London.

I was honoured to be invited to attend a Garden Party, given by our Queen at Buckingham Palace. This was a definite highlight of my Royal experiences. We were blessed by having a glorious sunny day which allowed everyone to make the most of everything offered. Perfection was the order of the day.

So many happy memories of the dedication of a wonderful Queen, long may she reign over us.

Anne Elvin