

GoodNEWS **MAGAZINE**

FREE MONTHLY

From Lindfield United Reformed Church

Summer 2013

Summer loving

Spreading hope and grace this summer
In Lindfield, Uganda and Romania

Charles Martin

Reflecting on five years in Lindfield
Looking forward to the future



Jesus

Bible verse of the month

**"And surely I am with you
always to the very end of
the age."**

**Matthew 28:20
NIV**

**This months verse comes
from Tina Elphick, see
page 23 for more details**



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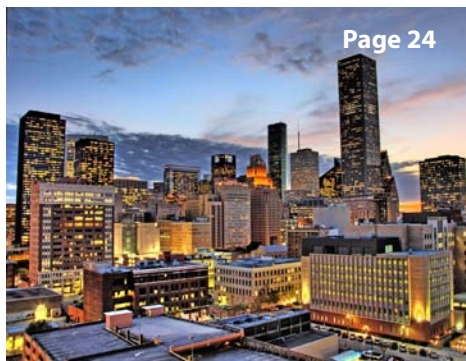
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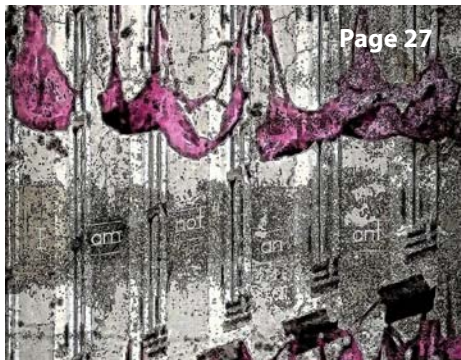
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**If you have a verse or article
you would like to share in
GoodNEWS email:**

goodnews@lindfielddurc.org.uk



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Editorial

This July sees the close of our Pastor, the Rev. Charles Martin's ministry at Lindfield U.R.C. We will have a special day on the 14th July which will be Charles and Jenny's last service in our church. Do read the tributes, which show the variety of ways Charles and Jenny have enriched our church family. How we will miss them both, in so many ways, we wish them well in their retirement and the new way of life.

It is so encouraging to read how well the Boys Brigade has succeeded in all the tasks they have undertaken. We pray that the boys doing their Gold Duke of Edinburgh award will be successful in the expeditions they have to undertake. We have a variety of subjects which I hope you will find both stimulating and interesting. Millie is off to Uganda and has done well in raising so much money towards helping so many people.

Some of our young people will be going to Romania soon, so please pray that they will be kept safe and that they will be able to learn from the experience and help the people they meet there.

Enjoy reading all the articles that have been written for our summer edition.

God Bless,

Anne

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Dear friends

Goodbye is a hard word to say, especially when you are saying it to people whom you have grown to know and love, but it can be a very good word, with a very positive effect.

Ministers make many mistakes. (I must have made thousands.) One of which I am always aware is the danger of making the congregation minister-dependent. I know it's kindly meant, but I shudder when someone asks "What are we going to do without you?" The answer is "You are going to do very well, because you have an excellent set of committed Elders, some of whom have guided the church through more than one pastoral vacancy."

To be without a minister is sometimes a very positive experience for a church. If I am allowed to use a sexist expression, it sorts out the men from the boys! Just as it's wrong to expect the minister to do everything and possess every skill, so it's wrong to leave everything to the Elders. They will need all the encouragement and support the rest of the fellowship can give them, so if you are asked to do something during the pastoral vacancy, think more than twice before you say "No".

Over the years I've said "Goodbye" to several congregations, but until now, always with the expectation of saying "Hello" to the next one. This time it will be different. There will be no expectant

group of folk eagerly waiting to make us part of their fellowship, no welcoming bunch of flowers on the kitchen table and no food in the larder. There will be no breathless haste to get the Manse straight before the Induction. When we move in to our house in Halstead, Essex on August 8th we'll just be ordinary members of the community and that will take some getting used to.

All the same, we will, for the first time in forty years, have the privilege of finding a church to join. I pray that God will be gracious and lead us to the kind of fellowship you have at Lindfield – a church where not only is everyone welcome, but everyone is valued and loved. That's what attracts folk – not great preaching or wonderful music, not exciting ideas or spectacular church programmes, but love – genuine, wholehearted love.

You have been that kind of fellowship through the five years I have had the privilege of serving you. Don't change! Please go on welcoming and accepting people just as they are – the way Jesus did. If you do, there will be no need to be concerned about the future. I just have to confess how much I envy the person who will have the joy of being your new Minister.

With sincere good wishes from
your Pastor and friend,

Charles S Martin

In Touch

In May, Sarah Tapp came and gave us an illustrated Quiz about Sussex. This involved identifying pictures of coastal features, churches, local landmarks etc and it proved to be a good guide as to how observant we are, and how well we know our county!!

We were very grateful to Sarah and hope she will come again in the future with some more illustrations to test our local knowledge.

Our annual walk and supper will be on July 23rd when we hope to visit Fletching and then return to the church for supper after completing the quiz. Please watch for notices regarding details of this event nearer the time.

We hope to meet in August, just for coffee and a chat, hopefully in someone's garden if weather permits! but again look out for details nearer the date.

Finally our In Touch quiet day will be on Sat. 14th September so keep the day free if you can and come and join us for what is always a challenging and interesting time.

Everyone is always ensured of a warm welcome to all our meetings and we look forward to seeing our regular members and perhaps some new faces in the future.

Janet Wade

The Fellowship

On Wednesday 24th July, we will be holding our annual Garden Tea with quizzes. We meet at 2.30 pm, with the usual 50p admission. There will be NO Bring and Buy stall.

All who come will find a warm welcome awaits them.

Pat Phillips

THE MANAGERS NEED YOU!

Many of you will be aware that we usually have a Saturday Spring Clean during May. This year we are having a "Working Week" covering repairs and cleaning, during August.

This will be Monday to Friday (as required) **19th to 23rd August**. There are several items that need attention, one being cleaning and sealing the main church floor. A full programme will be published nearer the time, but if you think you will be able to help some time during the week, please let me or any of the managers know.

The main cleaning time will probably be middle of the week.

David Walters

24hrs Prayer

At the end of May the church came together to pray throughout a whole day. It was an exciting opportunity to set time apart for seeking God in a quiet place, giving people space to pray however they felt called and allowing His spirit to move. Each hour of the day had at least one person signed up prior to the event, but with extra 'walk-ins' on the day we had over 60 people use the prayer room - an amazing day!

The lounge was full of resources for those who came in, including a brilliant display on the persecuted church courtesy of Ron and the missions group, and by the end of the day we had praise and prayer requests covering the boards which all spoke of a church passionately seeking God.

I sincerely hope that even those who were unable to join us at the church felt the support of those ongoing prayers. If you have any feedback on the day please feel free to drop me an email or find me in church - I'd love to hear what your thoughts are about the event and whether it would be something you'd like to see repeated in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who were involved in making the day run - especially Henderson and Charles for planning and set-up, Helen (a.k.a. mum!) for being there throughout the day and of course all those who came along to pray.

Alex Hall

a-hall@hotmail.co.uk



Prayer Focus

From September, someone else will be taking over the Prayer Focus page in Good News. I want to use this opportunity to pay tribute to the folk who have helped me organise the monthly church prayer meetings and in particular to the inspiration which Alex Hall gave us in his challenge to share in twenty-four hours of prayer on the weekend of Pentecost.

With the help of his Mum and Dad and Henderson McKewan, Alex provided a wonderfully atmospheric prayer room in which to spend time with God. I know everyone who took part – and more than fifty people did so – was blest. So thank-you Alex! The best way the church can show its gratitude is to repeat this and organise another twenty-four hour prayer session as soon as possible.

I also want to pay tribute to Carol Walters and Norna Derham, whose untiring efforts sustain the weekly pattern of prayer and intercession which is the life-blood of the church. Thank-you ladies and thank-you to the folk who share these meetings with you week by week.

The church prayer meeting on June 27th will be led by members of the Youth Council and we will focus our prayer on the children and young people's work here at Lindfield URC.

Charles Martin

Family News

Bereavement

Sadly we extend our love and heart-felt sympathy to four church families this month.

To Val and Adrian Cookney and family following Val's mother's death just 2 months after losing her Father.

To John and Carol Merrett and their family – John's mother has recently died.

To Brian Tuppen, very sadly losing one of his two sons.

Also to Sue Waller who has lost a very dear uncle. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

Thank You

I know there will be many 'Thanks' to Charles and Jenny in the coming weeks. However, on behalf of the Pastoral Group, I would like to express my very sincere appreciation to Charles for his loving care and concern for so many people during his ministry here. Together with Jenny, they have supported and helped a lot of folk within the family of this church, and so a very big 'Thank you' to both, Charles and Jenny!

Fo Tingley

July Mission

Wycliffe Bible Translators

Bibles, bibles, bibles...but more bibles, please! Check out the different translations around the church over the summer and explore the videos on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/user/WycliffeUSA>.

Throughout July and August we're showcasing the work of Wycliffe Bible Translators and the many thousands of people who have simply followed Jesus' command and dedicated their skills in linguistics and IT (computers) to get the bible's good news into the hands of as many people as possible in their own language.

A daunting task when you think that, although there are already translations into 2,800 languages (of which 518 have a complete Bible, another 1,275 have the New Testament and 1,005 others have at least one book of the bible), work still needs to begin on another 1,967 languages. Over 200 million people still don't have the bible in their mother tongue.

So, what about the English bible we have today? The early church needed few translations. Believers copied and circulated scriptures in Greek that everyone could read. But during the 4th century, Latin began to replace Greek as the common language. Several Latin translations, often inaccurate, leaked into

WordsforLife



circulation. The Church needed an official translation. Pope Damasus assigned the job to Jerome, his theological advisor and perhaps the most learned man of the time. Jerome's translation, called the Latin Vulgate (meaning vulgar or common) became the bible of the Middle Ages.

As centuries passed, Latin became the language only of the highly educated. Common people could no longer understand the Church's liturgy or scripture reading. Instead of promoting new translations, clergy clung to the Vulgate because it forced people to rely on their teaching. John Wycliffe, often called the Morning Star of the Reformation, defied the clergy. He translated the first English bible and recruited travelling preachers, called Lollards, to spread God's Word in English. Wycliffe's bibles, and later his bones, were burned but he had sparked a Reformation.

William Tyndale, a scholar fluent in seven languages, left England to work on the first English translation based on the original Hebrew and Greek. In 1525 smuggled copies of his New Testament

began circulating England. Today we have so many English translations and paraphrases to get the meaning of the original Hebrew and Greek across in words we can understand. What's your favourite? King James or ESV? JB Phillips or the Message? Take the survey at the Missions display and tick your first choice.

But translation isn't just a matter of words. It's understanding cultural context as well, and this is true even in our own language. The job of the translators is to get across God's ideas and meaning in a way that people can understand and relate to. This is why Wycliffe field workers have first to really understand a culture by living with the people, before reducing a spoken language to written form before the translation is done. Many languages, of course, already have their own distinctive alphabet, but others have no written form.

Here's what John 1:1 looks like in Arabic, but it would normally be read right to left and not left to right as written here:

دَعِىْعَن اَلْمَلِكَلَو ،مَلِكَلَا نَاْءَدَبَلَا يِف
اَللّٰهَ وَهُ مَلِكَلَا نَاْو اِلّٰهَ

The first verse of Mark's Gospel in Swahili, the widely spoken language of the southern half of east Africa looks like this:

***Habari Njema ya Yesu Kristo,
Mwana wa Mungu.***

So, what of tomorrow? Wycliffe's vision says it all. "By 2025, together with partners worldwide, we aim to see a bible translation programme begun in all the remaining languages that need one."

And how can we be part of this vision? We can firstly be informed, then pray, give if able and even go. For those able to go, there is the two Week Stint in Valence, France (a taster for youth), the One-to-One (six weeks to a year) programme involving either teaching, illustrating, helping out with practical tasks or offering IT skills (for all ages over 18) and the Medium/Long Term programmes which include a two year MA Course in either Field Linguistics or Literacy Programme Development. <http://www.wycliffe.org.uk/give/go/macourses.html>

Con Naish and Gill Storey, members of All Saints are now residents of Little Compton. Although officially 'retired,' and having spent many years serving the Lord at Wycliffe, they are still involved, albeit in a small way, in its work of bringing the scriptures to language groups who do not have them. They are truly amazing.

Please visit the Missions display if you're in church. If you would like to support Wycliffe during July and August please use the special Mission envelopes available in the church concourse, Gift Aiding where appropriate. Thank you.

The Missions Group



Charles and Jenny Martin

Reflecting on five years in Lindfield

Long ago in a pastorate far away a young minister was reading "Reform". As he idly flicked over the pages, he noticed a picture of a procession wending its way down a village street. It looked interesting because it was clearly a public act of Christian witness and it was shared by all the churches in the village. "Where could this be?" he wondered. Then he read the word "Lindfield" and it stuck in his mind. In the rush of busyness and the passing of the years he forgot the picture, but not the name of the village.

With just ten years of full-time ministry ahead of him, he was preparing for what he thought would be his final pastorate, when he received a 'phone call. An Elder asked him to be an Interim Moderator at guess where! He readily accepted, thinking "This is the nearest I shall ever get to walking down that village street myself." Little did he know. He's spent the last five years tramping up and down it every day!

So we finally arrived in Lindfield and this has been our home since 2008. What are my reflections on those five years? Overwhelming gratitude would be fair description, mixed with a certain measure of regret that I haven't been served you as well as I should have done. My health broke down in 2010 and again at the beginning of this year. As someone who has seldom been ill in the past, I am sometimes tempted to regard that as a kind of failure, but the Holy Spirit has given me a stern talking-to and put me straight on that.

It's only as we accept and offer our weakness to God, that He can take over and work through us. Brokenness is a gift, because it forces us finally to abandon our pride. If you are passionate about the Christian faith as I am, you will want to use all your time, your energy and your gifts in the service of the Church. That's a splendid thing, but God has taught me we need to repent even of that.

To quote Michel Quoist, whose book "Prayers of Life" means so much to an older generation of Christians, we have to learn that it's God's look that penetrates, not ours. It's God's word that transforms, not ours. To admit our own inadequacy is no cause for regret. It's a wonderful opportunity to find the Holy Spirit's life and power flowing through us. The problem is that it's counter-intuitive. In human terms it doesn't make sense, but it's true all the same. St. Paul had to learn the same lesson. He had to discover that Christ's grace is sufficient, because His strength is made perfect in our weakness.

Admitting your weakness also allows you to ask for help and both Jenny and I are genuinely grateful for all the care and encouragement you have given us during our ministry here in Lindfield. I say "our ministry" because I couldn't have served you as I have, were it not for my wife's support. She has never demurred when I've asked her to make way for a meeting in Ryecroft, to stretch Sunday lunch to entertain a visitor, to accommodate the Youth Fellowship after the evening service or to wash up and help put the house straight after they've gone. Her major achievement, with the willing help of Janet Drayton, was to cater for the Alpha Course in Ryecroft earlier this year. African Groundnut Stew was new to almost everyone, but much enjoyed all the same.

I shall be thankful not to be so intimately informed of the opinions of late-night revellers as the wait for their taxis outside

the Stand-Up Inn. Lindfield sometimes has the reputation of being a model village, but at one o'clock in the morning its reputation takes a dive, especially on warm summer nights when the bedroom window is wide open!

It's been great to live in Ryecroft. It's a lovely old house. We've tried to share it with you and David Walters has been kindness itself in listening patiently to all our moans and acceding to all our requests, but again I shall be grateful to live in a smaller house with not so many rooms to heat.

Inevitably we all wonder what the future has in store. Even though we are both retired, as URC ministers we are still subject to the discipline of the denomination, so we shall have to watch our "p"s and "q"s. I'm sure God has work for us to do and I'm equally sure he has a new minister in mind for you, one who doesn't make so many mistakes as I have made.

When Cardinal Keith O'Brien was forced to resign earlier this year he made the following statement –

"Looking back over my years of ministry, for any good I have been able to do, I thank God. For any failures, I apologise to all whom I have offended."

By the grace of God and with genuine gratitude for all your kindness, that sums up how I feel as my own full-time ministry draws to a close.

Charles Martin

Members Reflect...

Practice what you preach!

That's our Charles! He certainly has put all his preaching into practice and he has been an excellent example for us all.

Consider mixing together the following: Wisdom, love, humility and encouragement. Add a big infectious laugh and what do you get? A warm and caring pastor. Yes, that's our Charles again!

I have worked with Charles as one of his Elders for 5 years and I have enjoyed those years immensely. Charles is a leader, he has been gentle when gentleness has been needed and firm when love has had to be tough. In all of our Elders' meetings Charles has kept us aware that we are the Lord's servants seeking to do His will. Our Away Days together have been good times of sharing and Charles has listened carefully and considerately to all that has been expressed. Our meals together have nourished a friendship that will last forever and beyond!

Charles has never held back from expressing his appreciation of the Eldership, thank you, Charles. We have appreciated you, too, enormously, and we will miss your enthusiasm and vision for the church.

A promise for you and Jenny.

'They will still bear fruit in old age, Charles and Jenny will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, 'The Lord is upright; He is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in Him.' Psalm 92, verses 14 and 15.

Jean Gardiner on behalf of the Elders

So it is 'Farewell, Charles' as we enter another interregnum. It does not seem like five years since we celebrated his induction, yet here we are saying 'goodbye'. I am sure we will long remember all the input from him, ably assisted by Jenny. The time has passed quickly and many things have happened in that time. I am sure we will really miss his excellent sermons and teaching, delivered with a lovely sense of humour as well as being instructive and interesting.

I have been fortunate to see his input from a different perspective than most of us being on duty as the Registrar at weddings which he has conducted. It has been impressive to see the way he handles all types of brides and grooms, putting them all at ease but also making the most of the occasion to be a witness for the church in a way that does not offend but still is a challenge to those attending (without being too long!). I shall long remember, in particular, the 'pirate' wedding with a church nearly full of guests, all in costume

to some degree. The only ones not so attired were Chris Comber, the organist, Charles officiating and myself! However, despite some doubts that had been expressed it was a joyful occasion with a very worthwhile outcome. (I have also heard many say "He does a lovely funeral", but I have not booked him yet!).

We will miss you, Charles, but know now we have to look for an organ-playing, tenor-voiced pastor who also fits in with the other churches, oozing exuberance and a love for his Lord..We sincerely pray you both will have a long and happy retirement.

Hilary Shepherd

I have been involved in our church for many years under the Pastoral care of six Ministers, how blessed I have been. When Charles joined us five years ago I realised I still had so much to learn on my Christian journey. He has been such an encourager; his sense of humour in his teaching has been very special.

Your prayers and concerns for Roy and I and our family here meant so much to us. May the Lord Bless you and Jenny in your retirement.

Betty Billins

Five years have seemingly flown by during which we have been privileged to experience Charles' pastoral leadership style. This he has delivered with a lightness of touch, eased by twinkling humour. He has been bold enough to acknowledge his own fears and misgivings on occasions within his sermons.

Charles is a humble man who has always sought to walk close to his God. He has urged us to keep short accounts with our Saviour. His sermons are often sprinkled with personal examples from his rich experiences.

Charles has a strong personality and he dares to share very personal confidences sometimes. He trusts these recipients and, subsequently makes himself vulnerable to their possible failure with confidentiality.

Our minister has empathised with church congregation members who are either needy or are hurting in some way. Charles is diligent with his visiting ministry; and has spent long vigils with folk who are nearing the end of their earthly journey.

Last year Charles admitted that God was dealing very strongly with him. This resulted in a pervading sense of "brokenness." He seemed almost overwhelmed by this episode; but kept doggedly onward. Charles shared how he agonised as to whether he could continue to lead during his fragmented period; and fought with demons of self-doubt about the future.

Our minister is a family man who enjoys his many grandchildren. His only regret is that distances and commitments separate them from frequent visits to each other.

Charles, thank you for being our pastor. We release both you and Jenny into your beguiling future in Essex.

We just hope that you will not need to stand on a higher step too often in order for you to look folk in the eye, quite as often as you seemed to need to do amongst Lindfield United Reformed Church!!

Janet Drayton

Looking back to April 2008 when Charles was inducted to the pastorate at Lindfield URC we all believed he was God's man for the church and this has certainly proved to be the case. The five years we knew he had with us have simply flown, but what a lot he has achieved during that time.

With his vast store of wisdom and experience of over 40 years in the ministry Charles has been able to get alongside people of all ages and from all walks of life, some of whom wouldn't normally attend a church and give a listening ear and sound advice. He has been there for so many people when they have needed his help and has given of his time willingly. Nothing has been too much trouble, and all this in spite of battling with ill health in recent years.

In the early days of his time at Lindfield, Charles started the youth group, inviting several teenagers into his home for fellowship and pizza on a Sunday evening. Most people in their 60's would just want to crash out in their armchair and put their feet up after returning home from preaching twice in the morning and then again at the evening service, but not Charles. This was the beginning of the youth work which Josh Thomas has been able to build on.

One can see by his life that Charles has a close walk with God and he has encouraged us as a church to deepen our own walk with God.

It is said that behind every good man there is a good woman and this has certainly been the case. Jenny has ably supported Charles and used her many gifts in support of Charles' ministry.

We will certainly miss Charles and Jenny and their dog 'Barnie' but I feel sure God still has work for them to do in their retirement.

We wish them God's richest blessings as they retire to their new home in Essex.

Rosemary Tijou

When in June 2008 I was sitting in the front row in Lindfield URC having sat down from the singing of a hymn, my ears were tuning in to the reading of John 2 and 1 Corinthians 13. This was not difficult as the words of scripture flowed with clarity and meaning. The reader was Charles

Martin and the occasion, the marriage of my daughter Nicola to Chris Glaister.

Since listening to him read then, he has set out on many occasions the context and challenge of scripture through well prepared and executed preaching and through his actions. As I reflect on his tenure at Lindfield and without reference to the inner working of the URC of which I know very little I am glad that our paths have crossed. I count Charles as a friend and minister not only in a formal sense but a man who is diligent in all his roles and responsibilities. More than once I have heard him make clear his commitment to Lindfield Church and have seen plenty of evidence of commitments fulfilled.

Of course the next minister at Lindfield URC will bring the challenge of change for us all but I suspect for Charles and Jenny the challenge of change will be greater.

Henderson McEwan

How does one find the right words to express our gratitude for the ministry of Charles and Jenny? Anne and I have been greatly blessed by your pastoral ministry Charles. Your preaching has been both biblical and inspirational. This is a word our daughter from Herefordshire used when visiting our church.

We wish you both every Blessing for a long retirement and much joy in Christ Jesus.

Love from Anne and John Blake

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
	6.00pm	Brigade - Anchor Boys (5-7 years)
	6.30pm	Boys' Brigade - Junior Section (8-11 years)
	7.30pm	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 men and women of all ages
Thur	10.00am	Pop-In Coffee and a chat
	8.00pm	Church Meeting (2ndThur)
Fri	7.15pm	Zest (Years 6-9) games, craft, tuck and a bible message (term time)
Sun	7.30pm	Youth Fellowship

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

July Church diary

3rd Wednesday	12:30pm	Lunch Fellowship	21st Sunday	9:30am	Morning Worship
				11:15am	Morning Worship Stuart Dew
4th Thursday		House Groups		6:30pm	Evening Worship Mike Gardiner
6th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting at URC	23rd Tuesday	6:15pm	In-Touch Walk & Supper
7th Sunday	9:30am	Communion	24th Wednesday	2:30pm	Afternoon Fellowship
	11:15am	Morning Worship The Pastor		7:00pm	Elders' Meeting
	6:30pm	Evening Worship Ron Goodenough	25th Thursday	8:00pm	Church Prayer Meeting
	7:30pm	Youth Fellowship	27th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting at URC
13th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting at URC Mission Supper	28th Sunday	10:30am	Joint Communion John Goodway
14th Sunday	10:30am	Family Worship with baptism The Pastor		6:30pm	Evening Worship Richard Walters
	12:00pm	Fellowship Lunch	August		
	2:00pm	Praise and worship time			
18th Thursday		House Groups	3rd Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting at Evan Free
20th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting at URC	4th Sunday	10:30am	Joint Communion Mike Gardiner

10th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting
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11th Sunday	10:30am	Joint Morning Service David Jones
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17th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting at Evan Free
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18th Sunday	10:30am	Joint Morning Service Michael Davies
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19th Monday	Church Cleaning Week	
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22nd Thursday	8:00pm	Church Prayer Meeting
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24th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting
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25th Sunday	10:30am	Joint Morning Service David Walters
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26th Tuesday	6:30pm	In Touch (TBA)
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28th Wednesday	7:00pm	Elders' Meeting
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31st Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting
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September

1st Sunday	10:30am	Joint Communion Josh Thomas
	6:30pm	Evening Worship TBA

Sunday Services

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, those wishing to give are invited to place a gift in one of the bowls at the doors before or after the service.

Recordings of services can be borrowed free from the church.

Hello, summer is here! In this Summer Edition of Good News we have a look to our Romania BBQ which was held on Saturday 15th June.

**Josh
Thomas
Writes...**



We also have some important dates for your diary which are listed below.

Please pray for our young people who are off to Romania this summer, and for Tom McQuillin who is going to Sri Lanka and Millie McQuillin to Uganda. These experiences are life changing ones so please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Josh

Romania BBQ

On 15th June we were joined by Dickie Twort and three other members of the Cascaid Organisation for a very special BBQ to raise funds and awareness for our upcoming trip to Romania.

We had a fantastic evening and about forty five people came along to support us. We do thank everyone who came. Dickie and the team gave us a huge amount of information about what the organisation is doing out in Romania and some of the history behind why they do what they do.

I know I speak for the entire group going on the trip, by saying that his presentation has brought what we will be doing this summer to the forefront of our minds. We are getting very excited about the forthcoming trip!

Thank you to Ron and Janet Goodenough, John Barling and Rosemary Tijou for all their hard work on the evening; we were blessed with some great food and fellowship together.

Dates for your diary....

- 22/06/13 Josh away on honeymoon
- 08/07/13
- 05/07/13 No Zest Meeting.
- 12/07/13 Last Zest meeting of the term
- 3/08/13 – Josh away with Bromley
- 10/08/13 Battalion Boys Brigade, leading worship at their summer camp.
- 17/08/13 – Lindfield URC's youth trip
- 25/08/13 to Romania
- 08/09/13 Progression Sunday, start of the new academic year. Lighthouse groups are confirmed for 2013-2014

Boys Brigade



We were very pleased at the excellent support given by church members to our annual Awards Presentation in May. It was all in all a most successful evening.

The climaxes of the presentations, made by Charlie Simmons, Captain of the 3rd Burgess Hill BB Company, were Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Awards to Wesley Heyward and Tom Hewitt. Danny Lucas and Jack McDonald were presented with Bronze Awards. The President's Badge, the Brigade's second highest award, went to Wesley, Tom and Danny. Wesley and Tom were promoted to the rank of Sergeant. These awards, for which the

boys concerned have worked hard over a long period, reflect the high standard of training provided in the Company Section.

The Company has emerged from the winter session a little stronger than when it started last September, and it is particularly encouraging to see our Junior Section grow again. Our biggest challenge now is to get some boys in to our youngest age group, the Anchors, for 5 - 8 year olds. We would be very pleased to welcome boys in this age group come and join us, if not this summer, certainly from September onwards.

Geoffrey Cocksedge

Uganda Trip

This summer I am travelling to Uganda for two weeks with my school. We are travelling to the community of Kabubbu with The Quicken Trust. The Quicken Trust was founded as a registered charity in 1996 as a support to help develop new UK based charities. Following visits to Uganda in 1998 and 2000 its focus changed to assisting the community of Kabubbu – ‘The Forgotten People’, in their search for a way out of poverty, to self-determination and hope for their future. One of the biggest challenges in this area is the vast number of orphaned children whose parents have died from HIV or AIDS.

In the build-up to our trip our group have had to raise £10,000 to pay for the development of a new foster home. We have been doing this through cake sales, quiz nights, auctions and other activities. Each of us were also given £10 with the challenge to convert it into £110. I have done this by creating a DVD of a recent

school ski trip and selling copies to those who wanted one.

Whilst we are in Kabubbu we will be spending our mornings helping to complete the foster home, learning skills such as brick laying, rendering and decorating. In the afternoons we will be involved in various activities from working with individual families to help them achieve self-sustainability, helping in the schools in assemblies and lessons and playing games with the children.

I am really looking forward to this trip. Please can you pray for the people in Kabubbu, that our group will be a blessing to those people that we meet. Pray that we all stay safe and well.

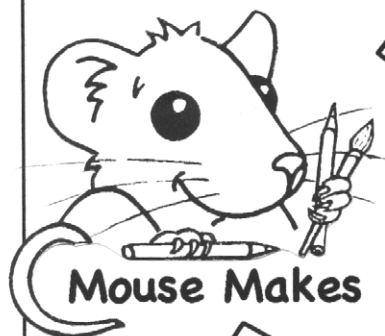
When I get back I will write another article about how we got on.

Millie McQuillin





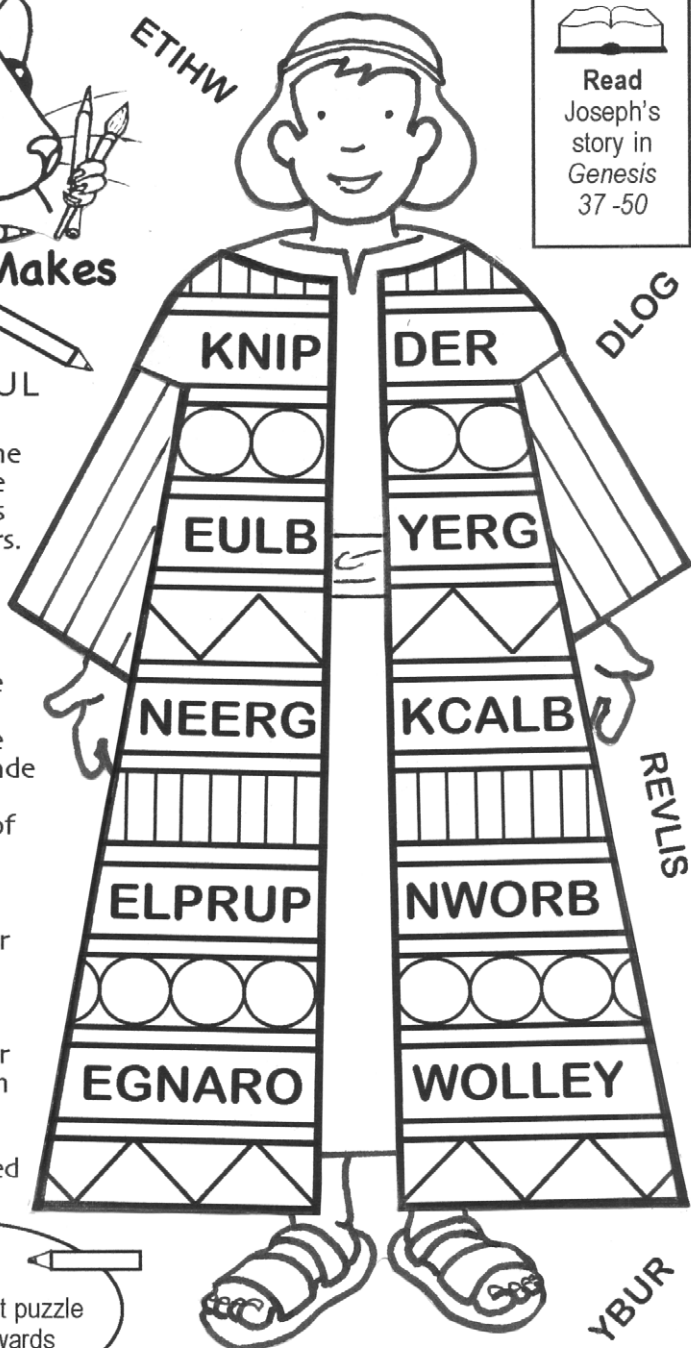
Read
Joseph's
story in
Genesis
37-50



JOSEPH'S WONDERFUL COAT

Joseph was 17, he took care of the sheep and goats with his brothers. His father Jacob loved Joseph more than his other sons because he had been born to him when he was old. He made a long robe for Joseph, a coat of many colours. When Joseph's brothers saw that their father loved Joseph more than he loved them, they hated their brother so much they would not speak to him and even plotted to kill him.

Colour
Joseph's
wonderful coat but puzzle
out the backwards
words first!



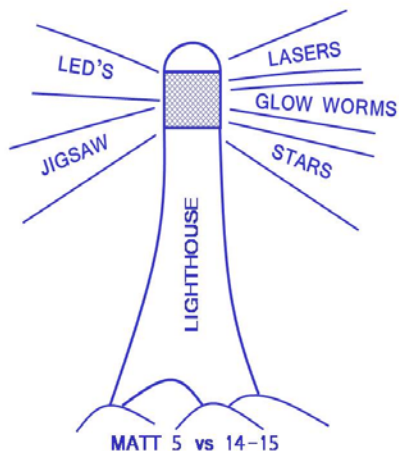
Junior Church

The mystery of the disappearing children!

Nearly every Sunday morning, at some point in the service the worship leader gives a signal and all the children and youth vanish through the double doors of the concourse – but where do they go and what do they do?

Our children and youth activities are called Lighthouse after Matthew 5 vs 14 and 15 where Jesus calls us to be a light to the world and that is our vision for both the teachers and the children that are part of Lighthouse, 'to give light to everyone' and share the amazing love and power of God.

On most weeks the children and young people divide into age groups, all of which have light related names; Glowworms is for children aged 3 years – Reception, Stars is for children for school years Reception – year 2, Lasers caters for children in school years 3 – 6 and LED's is for young people in school years 7 – 11. In this way we cover the whole age spectrum from 3 – 16 years. Glowworms, Stars and Lasers use Scripture Union material so that each group is considering the same story or theme but the material is targeted at different age ranges and the LEDs follow their own syllabus which is determined by the leaders.



Each group obviously seeks to engage with the children with activities appropriate for their age so that these vary slightly from group to group but it would be fair to say that they include lots of exciting crafts, games, stories, songs and discussion. If you like the sound of this but are over 16 while I regret we cannot cater within the groups for older 'kids' there is always a welcome for new helpers, either regularly or over the summer when the regular helpers and teachers are having a break!

Once a month we have Jigsaw, this is a totally different session when the three older groups all meet together. Then we have lights and music, worship, puppets and a lot of fun! At the moment we are doing a series on journeys in the Bible called 'EasiJigsaw – travelling Gods' way'. Last month we thought about Paul's journey to Damascus and next month our session is called 'Holy Spirit Airlines',

Bible Verse

which Bible character do you think that might be?

We would always love to welcome new children and young people but are also very aware that God has blessed us already with a fantastic group of young people and we seek to honour God and them week by week as we spend time together.

If you know of any children that may be interested then please mention Lighthouse to them and encourage them to come along. Please keep the teachers and children in your prayers, that our activities and vision going forward would be God's planning and not just ours and that we would all grow closer to Him.

If you would like to know any more information about Lighthouse then please speak to me or to one of the other teachers that mysteriously vanish through those double doors!

Dawn Walters

Anne asked me to pick a Bible passage special to me! I'll start with an apology. How can I possibly choose just one, when so many come to mind and mean so much to me?

I'm an emotional soul. A few weeks ago when David Jones was taking the service he ended with a hymn, he had discussed using it at our house group and thought it would be a powerful end to our worship at Easter time. After the service Ron Goodenough turned to me and said he thought everyone was moved by it. I replied, "Does it count if you cried all the way though"? I had tears streaming down my face!

These passages do the same to me and when I read them I know they are true promises to me from God. The first is at the end of Matthew, 'The Great Commission' Mathew 28 Verse 20:

'And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age.'

What more can I ask for? In Revelation 21 verses 1-4 but especially Verse 4, this reads:

"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away"

I have another promise which is so real to me, I cry with thanksgiving. I pray I will always feel this way, I know I do not know the Bible well enough and praise God when I read new or familiar verses and find deeper insights.

In our house group, we are studying Philip Yancey's book called Prayer. I cannot recommend it highly enough, and I'm only half way through. He is so honest and real, and quotes C.S. Lewis my favourite Christian author.

Hopefully that is two verses and two books which I would encourage you to read.

Tina Elphick

Texas Visit

Two years ago if anyone had said to me that Stuart and I would be spending three weeks in Texas in 2013, I would have thought they were joking! Why would we want to go to Texas, especially Houston, and knowing my anxieties about travelling? I never really contemplate going on any flight that lasts more than about two and a half hours! This may seem trivial to many people. They can jump on aeroplanes, to travel all over the world without a care, this was my big problem.

Why Houston? Our son-in-law, Paul was asked to go and work out there for two years along with the family, of course, and we could not bear the thought of not seeing them for all that time. With fear and trepidation, we booked our flights in January and I spent the next two months worrying myself silly about letting everyone down. But, guess what? I need not have worried as so many of our Church friends were praying for us that when the day arrived I felt calm and uplifted. A great lesson to me in "Let go, Let God!"

The ten and a half hour flight was uneventful and fairly boring, but of course, it was wonderful to meet our daughter Lisa, at George Bush Airport, and later to see our Grandsons again.

What is Houston like? Sprawling, flat and, especially at the moment, hot! Lisa and Paul live in a lovely house about 28 miles from the centre of the city and it is built up all the way and still growing.

The suburbs are very pleasant and are beautifully landscaped, with trees and many small lakes, out of which crawl small turtles to bask in the sun on the banks.

There are big churches of all denominations everywhere, and one, Lakewood holds 16,800 people! It is the largest church in America and the Texans are proud to tell you "Everything is bigger in Texas!" One of the local churches in Katy, the area where our family live, held three identical services on Easter Morning and you still had to apply for a ticket to get in! The dichotomy of this though is many, many Texans possess guns and would not be afraid to use them.

We visited several interesting places, our favourite being Brazos Bend State Park. We saw wild alligators close to, turtles and many unusual wading birds, but the best thing of all was to spend time with our daughter and Grandsons, Joseph and Sammy who had changed so much in five months. As many of you are aware there have been a lot of problems with Sammy's health, but at the time of writing, all is going well and he is at last making good progress.

Finally Stuart and I would like to thank you all for your prayers and support both for ourselves and for Sammy. What a wonderful church family we have at Lindfield URC. Praise the Lord!

Carol Marsh

Evening Service



At the moment there are a few folk who come to our evening services and enjoy them, but a large number who don't.

The style and content is different from the morning, they are more informal being held each week in the Lounge. The teaching is excellent and also the worship, yet it seems not to appeal.

What we would like to know is the reason why more folk do not come and support this service any more. Perhaps over the summer break you could let me know, write it down if you prefer. I would value input from both those who currently attend and those who are unable; regarding the timing, provision and purpose of the evening service. Please let me know.

There will be a natural break in August 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th, that is usual during a vacancy, but it will be more difficult to maintain the service in its present form when we should resume in September. This, therefore, is an opportunity to review and make changes – if change is needed. Perhaps a DVD from Spring Harvest, perhaps a teaching series, maybe a Prayer or Praise only evening. There are many ways we could spend Sunday evenings. Coming together with like minded people to worship our great God seems to me to be a good way to spend an hour once a week. After all, shouldn't we keep Sunday just that bit different from our other days??

At the very least – think about it ... pray about it please.

Sue Waller

Church Family

In 2011, in one of our Art Group meetings held at Lindfield URC, Doreen Fowler our leader of the group gave us a theme on which to draw a picture. This was 'A scene of our lovely village Lindfield'. I did not realise this at the time but I had started my journey into Lindfield URC church family. I also joined 'The Fellowship' where I met many friendly ladies.

Following this, I did the Concourse Duty with Doreen. I progressed to attend the prayer meeting which is held before the Art Group. This made me feel more at home with everything. Recently I was welcomed into full membership of Lindfield URC on the 26th May. I now feel very much a part of a lovely caring Church Family.

Jeannie Welch



In Print

After ten years hard work and a lot of help from a group of deeply committed people 'The Garden of Sparkling Delight' is now in print and is available from Amazon as a paperback and also in kindle format.

The book is a novel written to raise awareness of the 27million girls and boys who have been tricked into sexual slavery. The story focuses on a young girl and, although the setting is Brazil, the problem is a worldwide one. I have been deeply concerned about this issue for a long time. Since I became aware of the scale of sexual slavery particularly of children I felt that a novel would help the reader enter into a little of the anguish experienced by one such girl, her family and friends and would raise awareness of this desperate problem far better than a bald factual account.

If you are in any way concerned about this issue, please buy the book in one or other of its formats as ALL the money raised will go directly to four charities involved in combating sexual slavery. There is a short epilogue which you will find at the end of the book and information so you can get in touch with these charities for additional facts should you wish.

It will be really helpful if you would pass the details of the book onto your family and friends and urge them to pass it on in turn.

You can encourage people to read the book who know nothing about it, by writing a review for the Kindle and/or paperback editions or comment on the blog which you will find at: debvaren.blospot.co.uk



In this way through your reviews and comments we hope that the book will go viral on the internet and so spread awareness of this world wide abuse. In so doing it may reach many people who can do something practical to help. The blog is also the place to keep up to date with developments and read about some of the characters in the novel.

To contact the author by email please use the following address : DebVaren@gmail.com

Just speak to Jenny or Henderson if you have some questions or would like to purchase the book without using the internet.

Please remember that all money raised is going towards fighting this evil in our world.

Thank you so much for your help and support.

Jenny Martin [author]

TLS Course

I cannot believe that the first year of the Training for Learning and Serving course is almost finished. It really doesn't seem that long ago that I was in St Columba's Retreat Centre, surrounded by people who I had never met before. They all looked intellectual, witty and mature, whereas I felt a bit dumb, and certainly less mature! My doubts and fears were absolute nonsense, as it was made clear that we were all on a journey of discovery and learning, which is what the TLS course prides itself in.

The TLS slogan is "Not so much a programme, more an experience", which I believe encapsulates how it has been for me. For those who don't know, TLS is a theological journey which requires you to study the Bible in a way that promotes logical thought. You are given unit work to do, alongside a journal and three essays to do during the year. It might not sound like a lot, but the more you put into it, the more you get out, so it is a really rewarding course.



Personally, the highlight of the course has to be the residentials. These are held four times a year (though from 2014-15 it will be three times) at Saint Columba's Centre in Woking. This is a wonderful Christian retreat centre (which has been recently renovated) and made in mind for people who need to spend time either by themselves or with others. The facilities are excellent (I can guarantee a good night's sleep!), and the food is top nosh.

However, it isn't all about the building, what makes the residential so excellent is the time spent with other students. We all come from a diverse range of backgrounds; old, young, professionals, retired, Methodists and Reformists, to name but a few. We engage in discussions which can vary massively; previous topics have ranged from immigration, the prophetic church and even the Houses of Parliament! From there, we look at what the Scripture says, and we bring in our own understanding of the situation, and question how we may bring these ideas into our communities and churches.

Without a doubt, I have thoroughly enjoyed the first year of the course, and I look forward to using what I have learned in my life, and hopefully to the glory of Jesus. Feel free to ask more about the course, or if you'd like a brochure, drop me a line!

Alex Jeffs

Pastoral Vacancy

Where do we go from here?

From the end of July the church will be without a minister. What next?

Well, the life of Lindfield United Reformed Church will continue! Church Members should contact their Elder if they have any questions or concerns. Those within the fellowship, who are not Church Members, can contact any of the Elders. House Groups are also avenues for pastoral caring and the Pastoral Group will, as always, be available.

If you have a Pastoral matter or any other concern PLEASE SPEAK UP.

As we plan for the calling of a new minister it might be useful just to remind ourselves of the overall structure into which we fit in order to see who does what at this time.

The United Reformed Church is divided into thirteen Synods and we are in the Southern Synod. There is a Moderator of each Synod. Revd. Nicola Furley-Smith is Moderator of our Synod and she works out of the Synod Office at East Croydon. Work of the Synod is carried out through six Synod Areas and in two of these areas the URC and Methodist churches form a United Area. Our area is one of these and we are part of the Central Sussex United Area (CSUA) which consists of 27 churches from Eastbourne to Hassocks to Lindfield.

During a Vacancy the Synod, CSUA and the church (mainly through the Elders) need to work together to seek out God's will for the future ministry.

The first stage is for an Interim Moderator to be appointed by the CSUA in conjunction with the church. The Revd Robert Bushby the Minister of Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill URCs has been appointed as our Interim Moderator. Robert is also the Co-Leader of the CSUA.

The Interim Moderator is not a 'Stand-in' minister.

In general his role is to:

- ***Advise on all stages of the process in calling a minister.***
- ***Chair Elders and Church Meetings where the calling of a Minister is discussed.***
- ***Subject to availability he may chair all Elders and Church Meetings if possible.***
- ***Provide a link between Synod Moderator, CSUA, Local Church, and any prospective Minister.***
- ***Assist in drafting and negotiating 'Term of Settlement' etc.***
- ***Oversee and co-ordinate the planning of the Induction Service.***
- ***Subject to demands on his time the Interim Moderator may also be available to assist in other matters.***

David Walters

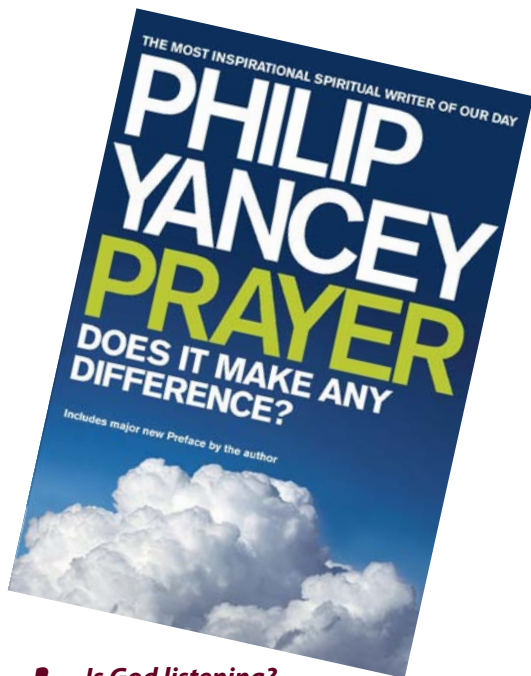
Good Reads

It's great that we now have a book table in the church. I do hope that we are making use of this. There is a wide range of books available written by many well-respected and influential authors. Reading these books will deepen our faith and help us grow as Christians, which is surely what all of us would desire.

Books by Philip Yancey, Max Lucado, Francis Chan, Timothy Keller, John Piper are always good reads, some deeper than others. I have used a number of books by Max Lucado in my personal devotions alongside my Bible readings. Generally they have short chapters with a very readable style.

Philip Yancey is also one of my favourite authors, most will have heard of and hopefully read 'What's so amazing about Grace?' but I want to recommend to you his book entitled 'Prayer – Does it Make a Difference?' In it he addresses many of the issues that challenge us and sometimes, dare I say, puzzle us about prayer, which is so fundamental to our relationship with God.

What is prayer? How does it work? And more importantly, does it work? Yancey explores such questions as:



- *Is God listening?*
- *Why should God care about me?*
- *If God knows everything what's the point of prayer?*
- *Why does God seem sometimes close and sometimes far away?*
- *How can I make prayer more satisfying?*

Yancey is very honest and personal in his writing – it's encouraging to read that he has the same problems and questions as us - so unlike many books you don't feel condemned and a failure but encouraged to persevere.

Ron Goodenough

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Email waller.s@sky.com

Treasurer

Terry Ward 01444 482986

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

Wed: Sue Waller 01444 455047
Fri: Anne Parker 01444 473519

Pastoral Group

Fiona Tingley 01444 483419

The Fellowship

Chris Comber 01444 482641

Stepping Stones

Janet Goodenough 01444 417002

Transport

Janet Drayton 01444 483621

Zest Co-ordinator

Josh Thomas 07598 779553

Lighthouse (Junior Church)

Co-ordinator
Dawn Walters 01444 441601

Flower Rota

Arranging

Distributing

July

7th	Winifred Scopes	Jan Foreman
14th	Janet Wade	Barbara Shepherd
21st	Gladys Porter	Jo Bloxham
28th	Fo Tingley	Iris Bingham

August

4th	Wedding	Heather Swann
11th	Anne Parker	Janet Sanderson
18th	Jean Baxter	Fo Tigley
25th	Serena Nathan	Sue Tester

September

1st	Winifred Scopes	Jan Foreman
8th	Mies Campling	Barbara Shepherd
15th	Carol Marsh	Jo Bloxham
22nd	Zoe McQuillin	Iris Bingham
29th	Audrey McKee	Heather Swann

Around Lindfield

Wednesday 10th July

12.15pm: Tiger Arts – Lunch in the Tiger

1pm: Two Pianos Recital in All Saints Church

Saturday 13th July

2.00pm: Horticultural Society Show of flowers and produce in KEH

Wednesday 14th August

12.15pm: Tiger Arts- Lunch in the Tiger

1.00pm: Soprano Soloist in All Saints Church.

