

GoodNEWS **MAGAZINE**

FREE MONTHLY

From Lindfield United Reformed Church

February 2015



Exodus

Epic journey from
slavery to priesthood

Lent

Lent Groups 2015 and the traditions
behind Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday

Footprints

God's presence, support and comfort every step of the way

Bible verse of the month

**“My precious child,
I love you and will
never leave you.”**

**Extract from the poem
'Footprints in the Sand' by
Mary Stevenson**



**Our verse this month is
chosen by Simon & Sally Ross-
Clark see page 25 for more
information**

**If you have a verse or article
you would like to share in
GoodNEWS email:
goodnews@lindfielddurc.org.uk**



Editorial

Happy New Year to everyone. We have news from our new Minister and family who are so looking forward to being with us all in Lindfield. Many will remember the joys of moving house. A very big warm welcome awaits them.

Our Youth Pastor has given us a full report on what our young people are doing. It is good reading to see the progress being made. Our Christmas activities are recorded with many photographs of different events that were held over that period. You can view these (and the whole magazine) in colour on our church website where you will also find photo galleries with dozens more of Hendersons wonderful photographs.

www.lindfieldurc.org.uk.

We introduce our new preaching theme on Exodus which looks very interesting. This will give us all the opportunity to widen our knowledge and learn more about the Bible and the God of Action.

There is information about an outing to Ditchling that could pass away an interesting afternoon.

Do read about how our Lindfield URC Mission Group's have helped different causes this past year and learn more about the Bible Society. Family news has sad news as we as a Church remember with fondness both Audrey McKee and John Blake.

God Bless,

Anne

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Dear (new) friends

There is a great amount of excitement, nervous anticipation, and hope in my heart as the days pass and I prepare to move to be with you in Lindfield.

I announced to my Northampton pastorate my call to Lindfield on the first Sunday of Advent, a time that we know as the start of the preparation for Christ's coming into the world and a sense of getting ready for the coming of the kingdom. I, with Emmeline, Noah and Faith, look forward to finding out how we may, with you, together serve His kingdom, experience its growth and declare Jesus our Lord and Saviour through our words and actions.

Already we are placing the contents of our current manse into boxes; some to be moved into Ryecroft, some to local charity shops, others to be recycled and bags that will become landfill.

One wonders at how much a house contains, there are some boxes that probably haven't been opened in the 10 years I've been here, but of course our home is not just limited to physical items but the memories of joys and sorrows; delight at new birth and tears at the passing of friends, such things cannot be boxed and loaded on a pantechicon but will come with us, they make us who we are, and no doubt you will discover some of these things as we spend time together.



Family News

In Touch

By the time we move, in mid February, it will be Lent. Lent will be special for me this year, occurring in two places an old life and a new – but perhaps that is true for us all.

Lent is always a time when we go through our lives and try to remove the rubbish and unpack from our travels what is good, bringing it back to use. Lent is a time to remember that the Lord has stood with us in the challenging times, that He has still loved us when we have done things He didn't want us to, and been there too as we have rejoiced and given thanks for blessings and goodness that we have experienced. What will this Lent reveal?

How will we come closer to God? What rubbish do we need to throw away and receive His forgiveness for? What delight is hiding in the back of a cupboard to be re-found?

These answers are yet to be discovered but I look forward to sharing that journey with you.

Yours

Keith

In November we had a visit from two members of the Worthing Churches Homeless Project team, who gave us a fascinating insight into the work carried out in this area. This is a Christian charity founded in 1991 to provide food, warmth and support to homeless people in the Worthing area.

Since 1991 it has grown and now works from five main sites employing professional staff and volunteers drawn from all sections of the community. Support is given in various ways; there is a drop-in centre for provision of facilities and also advice, but there are also short and longer accommodation houses for the homeless as well as specific help for those who have drug or alcohol problems. Our church supports this organisation financially so it was especially interesting to hear about their work in detail and how they do need our continuing support and prayers in the future.

Our next meeting will be on February 24th when one of our regular worshippers, Rev. Dr Rosieta Burton will be speaking to us about some of the work she has been involved in with the various churches during her career.

Everyone is very welcome to come and hear Rosieta speak and remember we start the evening with a drink of coffee at 7.45pm before the meeting begins at 8.0pm.

Janet Wade

Family News

Sad News

Since the winter edition of GoodNEWS was published in early December three of our dear friends have gone home to their Lord, and we thank God for each one of them, and for the privilege of having them as part of our Church.

We send our love and sincere sympathy to Donald McKee, following the death of Audrey before Christmas.

Audrey & Donald had been married for over 60 years, though, sadly, the last couple of years have been very difficult and stressful for them both. A faithful, highly respected and loved member of our Church Family since the 1970s, Audrey served the Lord in a variety of different ways here at LURC. For a number of years she was in charge of the Monthly Lunch Fellowship, producing tasty meals for the guests.

She was also a formidable Halls Booking Secretary, carrying out her duties with efficiency and the necessary diplomacy! Despite her own constant health problems, Audrey was always concerned about others. Her friendship and care will be missed by us all. Our thoughts and prayers are with Donald and his family.

Another sad loss to us all is the death of John Blake. He was a true man of God, bringing deep insights into Bible Study, and his participation in prayers was

inspirational and appreciated by young and old alike.

John and Anne moved to Lindfield to run Compton House Nursing Home, as it was then. (It was when they retired that the Churches took it over.). John and Anne became members of the Church in 1983, and both served the Lord faithfully here until poor health took its toll. Dear John will be sadly missed by his many friends both in the Church and outside it, and especially by his family and those folk to whom John had become a special, kind and caring friend.

Our sympathy and prayers go out to Anne, Sandra, Judith, Martin and the wider family, all of whom were very dear to John's heart.

Yet another very dear friend and much loved and respected member of our Church Family, Roy Billins, died peacefully at home on January 19th. Roy served the Lord here in a variety of ways during the latter part of his life. He always took a keen interest in all that was going on, and he will also be remembered for his care and concern for others, not to mention his witty sense of humour!

Our love, sympathy and prayers are very much with Betty and the family.

Fiona Tingley

Vacancy Update

Things are now moving forward and you will see from the letter from 'Our New Minister' that he and the family are preparing for the move to Lindfield. We are currently working on Ryecroft and although it was left in very good condition by Charles and Jenny, there is always work to do when a property has been empty for a while.

We have now found a way, at last, of insulating from the upper floor ceiling (there is no access to the roof space) and we are working on this. Most other works are cosmetic, painting etc. Keith, Emmeline and the family move to Lindfield during the February school half term W/C 16th although they return to Northampton for Keith's last service there on 1st March. They will travel back to Lindfield following that service and Keith will start his ministry with us at that time.

The Induction Service will take place on Saturday 28th March at 2.00pm., and Keith's first Sunday service will be on 29th March. During March he will take the opportunity to get to know us, be part of the congregation and visit the Junior church etc..

Please continue to pray for the family during this busy time with the upheaval of moving and settling in a new area. Remember especially the children, Faith and Noah, starting a new school and making new friends.

Our joy will result in some sadness in the churches Northampton as the family leave them.

Please pray for them as they enter a time of vacancy.

Signing off for the last time under this heading

David Walters

The Fellowship

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 25th February at 2.30pm..

STOP PRESS

Our February speaker has had to cancel due to unforeseen circumstances, but please still come!!

An update will be in the Weekly Church Notice Sheet to say exactly what will be happening on that afternoon.

There will be the usual Bring and Buy stall, together with a cup of tea after the talk.

All who come may be sure of a warm welcome.

Pat Phillips

Message of thanks

Chris and Mary Comber would like to thank all their friends at Lindfield URC for all their help in the last month since Mary's fall and Chris's chest infection.

It has made us realise how blessed we are to belong to such a caring Church.

Chris and Mary Comber

Thank You!

Thank you for your Christmas Cards! We realise that it is a little late to say thank you for using the church's fluffy red post-box, but we only knew the final total that was raised after the last Good News was published.



The amount raised was £208.40 all of which has been sent to the Ebola Fund.

So, a very big "Thank You" to you all.

Stuart & Carol Marsh

Lunch Fellowship

A reminder that there is going to be a change to our Lunch Fellowship in 2015.

From January 2015 the Wednesday and Friday Lunch Fellowship will all meet together on the first Wednesday of the month.

Wednesday 4th February

Wednesday 4th March

Wednesday 1st April

Wednesday 6th May

Wednesday 3rd June

Wednesday 1st July

– This will be the outing date

We hope that this will make for a good time together with a bigger group. We do hope that the Friday Lunch folk will find this arrangement to their advantage. The cost will remain at £3.00 each and we look forward to serving you in the New Year.

As always if you are unable to come please phone Sue on 455047- likewise if you are able to come and have not let us know please phone the same number to book your place.

Thank you,
Sue Waller

Lent Gatherings

From 18th February (Ash Wednesday) during each Wednesday of Lent we will be meeting together, in the church, with groups from the other Lindfield Churches for a special seven week Lent course. The last session will be the Maundy Thursday Service. We will be working through Graham Tomlin's "Looking through the Cross" and focusing on the practical implications of the cross on our daily lives.

There will be two opportunities to be part of this, either in the mornings starting at 10:00 (Coffee at 9:30am) or starting at 8:00pm (coffee at 7:30pm).

The format of each meeting will be;

9:30am/7:30pm
Meet for coffee

10:00am/8:00pm
Call to Order

10:00-10:30am/8:00-8:30pm
Hymn, bible reading and address.

10:30-11:15am/8:30pm – 9:15pm
Groups

11:15-11:30am/ 9.15-9.30pm
back together for closing hymn and prayer.

11:30am/9.30pm
Finish

The dates of each meeting will be: Wednesdays -18/2, 25/2, 4/3 11/3, 18/3, 25/3, Maundy Thursday 2/4.

It has been recommended that those who come would benefit from purchasing and reading the book; Graham Tomlin's "Looking through the Cross". It costs £7.99p but can be bought more cheaply by searching the internet. If that is something you are unfamiliar with please do feel free to ask for some assistance. Unfortunately there has been no way found of buying more cheaply in bulk.

Names are to be collated by 1st February to be put into groups. Please either give your name to your Home Group Leader or put your name on the sign-up sheet on the board near the lounge.

Looking forward to seeing you there.
Val Cookney



Christmas 2014

The saying goes "Christmas comes but once a year" and then you add how you feel. Well, how do I feel?

I feel that so many of the church put in a super effort over the Christmas period and I would like to say thank you.

To Jenny and the catering team who provided endless cups of tea and coffee and the donation of many many mince pies was greatly appreciated. At the concert we served over 140 drinks. Next year, we might consider a coffee machine or flask for the gallery guests.



To the meeters and greeters, pressed or otherwise, who made people welcome at all the events. We were delighted that some people came back for more.

To the Copthorne Band who again joined us and have pencilled in 2015 already.

To our church music makers and "entertainers", well done. To sing and play to such large congregations is a rewarding and fulfilling experience.

Our PA systems and lighting are invaluable and thank you Richard for all that you do.

The Church was beautifully decorated and thank you ladies. It is appreciated.

Finally, to those who took the responsibility of preaching the Christmas message to inspire and motivate. Perhaps that should have been the first thank you as that is the purpose of all the events.

Knowing me, I have omitted somebody but at least I have not had to thank the fire brigade when extra unintended flames appeared from one of the candle stations at the Carol Service.



However, thank you all for whatever contribution you made to make Christmas a success but it does not end there. We have made contact with many people over the period, let's try to maintain and enhance those contacts.

2015 brings new challenges in the Church and in the community. We move forward "in the Strength of the Lord"

Peter Swann



PS. The collection for Charity at the concert was well over £500

Shrove Tuesday

We all know Shrove Tuesday as Pancake Day, but have you ever wondered why we make up the batter and toss the pancakes (hopefully catching them successfully!) each year?

Shrove Tuesday, as we know, comes before Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent – the period of forty days (not counting Sundays) that leads up to Easter. The origins of this day go back many, many centuries when Christians would undergo “Shriving”.

Over a thousand years ago a monk wrote in the Anglo-Saxon Ecclesiastical Institutes: “In the week before Lent everyone shall go to his confessor, confess his deeds and the confessor shall so shrive him”.

So Christians would cleanse their souls ready for Lent which is a time of giving things up, and this was the last chance to indulge oneself. Giving up foods, but not wasting them. There were many foods that observing Christians would not eat during Lent, such as meat and fish, fats, eggs and milky foods.



Ash Wednesday

So that nothing would be wasted, families would have a feast on the shroving Tuesday using up all the foods that wouldn't last the period of Lent.

The need to eat up the fats gave rise to the French name Mardi Gras: meaning Fat Tuesday. Pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday as they were a dish that would use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house with only the addition of flour.

Pancake races are said to have started about four hundred years ago in Olney, Buckinghamshire, where a housewife who was cooking pancakes suddenly heard the bells summoning her to church so she ran out of the house, still wearing her apron and carrying the frying pan complete with pancake!



Races are still held there every year to commemorate the event!



The name Ash Wednesday derives from the tradition of blessing ashes made from palm branches used on the previous year's Palm Sunday and scattering them on the heads of participants or, more often smearing them onto their foreheads in the shape of a cross as they start a period of repentance and spiritual renewal during Lent.

The Bible does not, of course mention this tradition, but the practice of repentance and mourning in ashes is mentioned several times in the Old Testament as well as in Matthew 11:21.

Carol Marsh

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 (4th 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)

At **6:30pm** Held in the lounge this is sometimes a celebration, sometimes a quieter ministry time and sometimes an open communion service or something quite different!

Holy Communion (2nd Sunday)

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.

Prayer Meetings

Mon	9.30am	An Hour of Prayer
Thur	8.00pm	Church Prayer Evening 'Engine Room' (4th Thursday)
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 blue book on the concourse table.

Regular Activities

Mon	10.00am	Art Group
	6.00pm	Boys' 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 (2nd Thur)
Fri	5:00pm	P.U.L.S.E Junior (1st and 3rd week, term time)
	7.30pm	P.U.L.S.E (Years 6-9) games, craft, tuck and a bible message (term time)
Sun	7.30pm	P.U.L.S.E +

The church is open on Tuesday (Concourse) and Thursday (Pop-In) 10.00am - Noon.

February Church diary

1st Sunday	9:30am	Family Worship	15th Sunday	9:30am	Family Worship
	11:15am	Morning Worship Dan McQuillin		11:15am	Morning Service Graeme Allan
	6:30pm	Healing Service at Haywards Heath Methodist Church Rev Peter McIntosh (no evening worship at Lindfield URC)		6:30pm	Evening Worship Simon Brickell All Saints
4th Wednesday	12:30pm	Lunch Fellowship	18th Wednesday	10:00am	Lent Groups
				8:00pm	Lent Groups
5th Thursday		House Groups	21st Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, Evan Free
7th Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, Evan Free	22nd Sunday	9:30am	Communion
8th Sunday	9:30am	Family Worship		11:15am	Communion Rev Michael Davies
	11:15am	Morning Worship Tim Griffiths		6:30pm	Evening Worship Rev Jim Thorneycroft Hassocks
	6:30pm	Evening Worship Communion David Walters			
			24th Tuesday	7:45pm	In Touch
12th Thursday	8:00pm	Church Meeting	25th Wednesday	10:00am	Lent Groups
				2:30pm	The Fellowship
14th Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, Evan Free		7:45pm	Elders' Meeting
	3:00pm	ROC on Saturday		8:00pm	Lent Groups
			26th Thursday	8:00pm	Church Prayer Meeting
			28th Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, Evan Free
				3:00pm	ROC on Saturday



YOUTH

*Hello Everyone and
Happy New Year!*

It has been a long time since I have been able to tell you about the life of the youth, so let's get stuck straight in!

I want to start with Sunday mornings. LED's started back on Sunday 4th January, looking at the early church in Acts, and the fact that we have the same God now as those people did back then. It sparked good conversation and we ran out of time before we had completed everything! It is great to see them grappling with the material, asking questions and wanting to know more.

The other groups in lighthouse are all running well. They had their Christmas outing on Saturday 3rd January. They decided to go bowling in Horsham. About 25 to 30 parents and children attended and although there were a few hiccoughs such as the lanes breaking down, I believe it was a great success!

Boys' Brigade started back up on Monday 6th. We only had a turnout of four as I think some of them are still in holiday mode!

This term Alex Harfield has joined the leadership team and has already offered some skills that he can pass to the boys. It will be a blessing to have him on the team!

Stepping Stones kicked off with a bang on Tuesday with an attendance of 31 children. It was great to be able to talk to them about their Christmases briefly as they registered in.

Whilst on Stepping Stones, we had a good turnout of mums to the Crib Service on Christmas Eve, though not as many buggies as we had hoped! The service went smoothly and we were just about able to fill all of the roles needed to act out the nativity. Thank you to everyone who was involved in making that service a success!

We are having a follow up service on Mothering Sunday that we can invite the Stepping Stones families along to.

Planning has begun this week (beginning January 6th) for the Christian Unions at Oathall and Warden Park. We are going to be looking at the different people Jesus met throughout his ministry, and how we can learn from those interactions.

I also received an email this week from Walstead school asking if I can pop in and talk to the pupils at either their chapel time or during a lunchtime Christian Union. I am excited to begin a relationship with this school.

I now move onto the multiple Pulses that run throughout the church!

PAGES

Pulse Jr. started again on Friday 9th January. We are working through the story of Moses and we have reached the crossing of the Red Sea.

Pulse is having their first session back on Friday 16th January. I am also organizing a weekend away in May for Pulse, where we will attend and camp at the Big Church Day Out event.

Pulse Plus began on Sunday 4th and we are beginning the year looking at Christian living. The topics have been handed out to those who come and I will be working alongside them all to deliver a topic each week. I hope this can help the teaching subject to be received better as they will be teaching each other.

Finally, on Saturday 10th January, about nine people from the church were learning how to save lives! We had a day in the upper room of the church earning our First Aid certificates. The day was a success, and I plan to organize further courses in the future.

That's all from me,

Danny

Boys' Brigade

I am not a great fan of George Bernard Shaw, but I do sympathise with him when he said that if he ever felt the need for violent exercise, he would lie down and stay very still until the feeling passed.

I don't usually do anything more strenuous than a game of chess (which I am not very good at), but when you are dealing with a bunch of schoolboys, very restless and hyper-active anyway, you have to cater for their passion for sport, which if not actually violent, is certainly vigorous.

This is what boys come to BB for. So we enter our Boys for as many sporting events as we can manage, and last autumn they did very well.

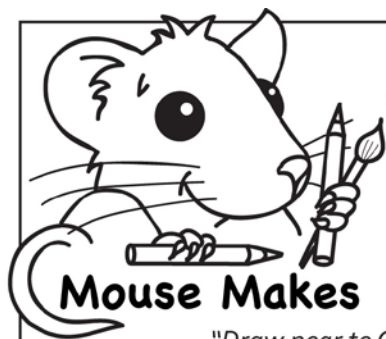
The Juniors came second in a games competition in Burgess Hill, a better position

than they have achieved for many a long year. A Company Section team played in the five a side football tournament held at Oathall College, and, at first held their own, doing well against a couple of formidable opponents; however, the sheer effort seems to have drained them, and their performance dropped off markedly in subsequent games. For sheer enthusiasm, however, our boys' playing left nothing to be desired.

They made up for the disappointment a few weeks later at the badminton competitions, again at Oathall, by winning the Senior Cup outright, a trophy we had to share last year. Well done especially to Hayden and Ben, the key players in our team.

Geoffrey Cocksedge





The 40 days before Easter are called **LENT**. Lent is a time for Christians to pray, read the bible and turn to God.



"Draw near to God"
James 4:8

During Lent read
Matthew's Gospel



The first day
of Lent is
ASH
WEDNESDAY

It is a day of
repentance,
a day for
saying
sorry to God
for any
wrong things
you have said
or thought
or done.

"Love God with all
your heart, mind
and soul"
Matthew
22:37



LENT CALENDAR
Colour in a square
each day to Easter



During Lent
pray for someone,
encourage someone
and **tell** someone
about Jesus

Tuesday Monday 40 PALM SUNDAY 39

The Lord is here,
His spirit is with us

Wednesday

Thursday



Saturday



Tiger Arts

Lunch and Concert

Due to impending work at All Saints Church this year the popular and well-established (since 1996) light lunches and concerts are taking place at the URC on the second Wednesday of every month.

The February Tiger Arts is on Wednesday 11th when we are delighted to welcome students from Lancing College which has a reputation as an outstanding music school.

We look forward to their first visit to Lindfield as they share their musical talents with us.

Admission and lunches continue to be free but donations towards expenses will be gratefully received. Lunch is available from 12.15pm and the concerts take place between 1 – 2pm.

Tiger Arts exists to organise musical, artistic, literary, dramatic and other artistic events within the context of an active worshipping and witnessing church.

We believe God has given us all talents to perform or create, and minds to appreciate and enjoy listening to beautiful music and words and seeing lovely things in the world. We are delighted to share these aspects of our faith with you at these events.

Peter Ford/ Stuart Marsh

Wow Factor

Handel's "Messiah"

I have enjoyed many performances of "The Messiah" over the years, including singing in it on a number of occasions, but nothing compares with the performance given at All Saints Church in December! It had been marketed as being something very different and that certainly proved to be the case.

The performance was given by The Merry Opera Company, comprising of twelve professional opera singers, who sang not only the solos but also all of the many choruses, in at least four part harmony, and all from memory! (Quite mind-boggling in itself!) Added to this the whole performance was dramatised, with each performer visibly getting into the character they were portraying, whether it was in the prophesy section through to the birth, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. As the publicity material states, "Bringing the singers out from behind their scores brought out the human character of the music" The staging and direction brought the whole performance to life. It was such a moving and exciting experience! When they sang "Worthy is the lamb who was slain" and the "Amen" chorus at the end, we, the audience, felt we might have been transported into heaven itself - it was so powerful with all the singers surrounding the audience on four sides of the church. It was just such an amazing performance of The Messiah that I will never forget!

Thank you, Tiger Arts - **Fo Tingley**

Exodus

God in... Lights, Camera... Action!

How would you cast the role of God in a movie? Maybe you see the chiseled jaw of Charlton Heston, or for my generation it is perhaps the imposing voice of James Earl Jones or the charismatic gravitas of Morgan Freeman.

Ridley Scott making his new film based on the book of Exodus controversially chose an 11 year old English schoolboy to play the role. His aim was to represent a powerful purity and innocence alongside the jaw dropping power of God we see through the films special effects. The casting however does risk obscuring Gods true character. The defining arc of the journey, Gods love and relationship for Moses and his chosen people risks appearing petulant rather than passionate.

I hope you will see God more clearly over the next few weeks as we continue our journey with the people of Israel as Moses leads them from suffering and slavery in Egypt to priesthood in the kingdom he had promised them. It is an epic physical and spiritual journey which both fulfils Gods promise to Abraham and points us to the saving grace of Christ.

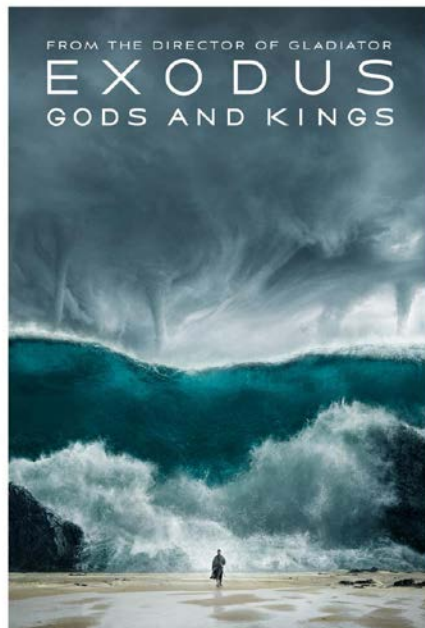
I hope like Moses as we journey you get to encounter the glory of God, and experience the God of action. As we look each week at the God who cares, who Speaks, Sends, Saves, Guides and Provides. The God of the Covenant who makes slaves into Kings and Priests.

As I read Exodus it is Brian Blessed that I see, louder than thunder, larger than life, big hearted, hyperactive, frightening and approachable in equal measure.

I think it is fitting that this month Sally and Simon chose a verse from Footprints, the famous poem by Mary Stevenson. For there is perhaps no better depiction of God in the desert than the sure and certain prescence and provision marked by His footprints as he alternately leads and carries us every step of the way.

Like Moses we do not get to see Gods face, yet. But His back and footprints as He leads us safely home, following Him on our own journey from slavery to salvation in Christ.

Dan McQuillin



Missions Group

For January and February 2015 as a church we are focusing our support on the Bible Society.

The monthly Engine Room Prayer Meeting at 8pm on Thursday 26 February will be focussing on mission. This is open to all who wish to join us in prayer.



The Bible Society makes Scriptures available where there are none, work to help the church engage with the Bible more effectively, endeavour – through the arts, education, media and politics – to make the Bible available, accessible and credible in our culture. Please see the article in the Winter Edition of Good News. You can also find out more about the Bible Society on their website at www.thebiblesociety.org.uk.

For 2014 the organisations the Church focussed on for the bi-monthly giving were the Bible Society, Open Doors, Operation Mobilisation, Romans 1:11 Trust, Prison Fellowship and Worthing Churches Homeless Projects.

Here are just two quotes from several thank you letters received to give you a flavour of the impact this work can have:

The Bible Society

“Thank you so much for your gift and thank you to your church for standing with us as a valued mission partner..... However it (your donation) is put to work, you can be sure that your church's gift will go to where it's needed most, opening up the Bible's powerful story for people of all ages, from all backgrounds, and of all faiths and none.”

Open Doors

“....thank you for your generous gift to help Christians living where faith costs the most. ... we'll be able to strengthen the ministry of more courageous Christians like Sister Muriel who runs a school in Aleppo, Syria. Though the war has torn the city apart and thousands have fled, Christians like Sister Muriel have stayed and now deliver food aid to people who need it.”

You can find out more about the mission groups we are focussing on and funds raised from information on the Missions display board on the Church concourse.

Thank you so much for your continued support – prayer and/or financial – for the work of missions in UK and overseas which is greatly appreciated.

Missions Group

Ditchling Museum

Ditchling Museum of Art & Craft

A relatively new tourist attraction in Ditchling is the Museum of Art and Craft, a finalist in the ArtFund Museum of the Year 2014 competition. It was opened in September 2013 on the site of the old Ditchling Museum, just behind St Margaret's Church.

The original museum was founded in 1985 in the old village school by two sisters in their 70's and Helen remembers the excitement of one of them when we met her by chance in Ditchling just the week before it opened!

The new Museum marries the school building with an 18th Century Cart Lodge so inspirationally that it was awarded the 2014 RIBA Award for South East Building of the Year.

The exhibitions are focussed on the work of members of the Guild of St Joseph and St Dominic, founded in 1921 as a community

of work, faith and domestic life, with workshops and a chapel, and members living according to their faith.

The Guild closed in 1989 and the workshops, just to the south of Folders Lane on Ditchling Common, were demolished. The Museum displays many arts and crafts, paintings, sculptures, prints and weaving, in an attractive setting that blends the old and modern aspects of the buildings.

One of the cloths on display was woven by one of the Museum's founders and worn by Charlton Heston in the film Ben Hur. I especially liked the wood engravings of Philip Hagreen which mixed religious, social and political issues. During my midweek visit there were few visitors and it was a very pleasant and peaceful way to spend a couple of hours. The Cart Lodge houses a shop and a café for light refreshments to round off a visit.

Martin Hall



Lucy Update

Hello my name's Lucy and I'm a Blue Roan Cocker Spaniel aged 15 months. Last time I wrote I told you how I had just become a "Pets As Therapy" visiting dog. I am enjoying my new work and have met some very lovely people.

A few weeks ago Ray and Rosemary took me on holiday with them. I knew something was afoot when I saw all the preparations being made and the pile of luggage ready to pack in the car! It was my first holiday and I was very well behaved on the journey. As we drove along the A303 past Stonehenge the traffic was at a standstill in both directions.

I understand it is always slow going westbound, but on this particular Friday nobody was going anywhere for over an hour! We just sat and patiently waited in the queue.

That night when watching the news on the television we saw that none other than the President of the United States of America, Barak Obama had visited Stonehenge that day! It was on his bucket list of things to do before he dies he said!

On the Wednesday I spotted a tasty morsel a few yards from our caravan. It was a red and white spotted toadstool which I eagerly started to devour! I heard Ray and Rosemary discussing whether to take me to the vet just to get advice, which they did.

They did not want to drive for twelve miles to South Molton around dark country lanes at ten o'clock at night, hence their going straight away. The vet told us that ten o'clock that night would have been too late...phew!

Ray had part of the offending toadstool he had rescued from my mouth to show the vet. The vet looked it up on the Internet, and yes, it was poisonous to cats and dogs. He said he would have to give me an injection to make me sick. I duly had the injection and was as sick as a dog several times!

Ray and Rosemary had to go away for an hour and then come and collect me. The vet said to wait a couple of hours before feeding me, but within an hour I was asking for my dinner. Needless to say, I had it in two installments that night, just in case there was a problem!

While staying on the farm I enjoyed meeting different kinds of animals. The farmer and his wife were very kind people and had rescued goats, horses, ponies, rabbits, guinea pigs and cats and provided them with a good home.

I certainly enjoyed my stay in the caravan and hope we go again next year.

Lucy



Bible Verse

This months verse comes from the poem 'Footprints in the Sand':

He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you.

Never, ever during your trials and testings.

When you saw only one set of footprints,

It was then that I carried you".

Such a blessing to know that Jesus is always there, he never leaves us and comforts, guides, strengthens and consoles us all.

Simon & Sally Ross-Clark

Youth Alpha

As of Sunday 23rd of January, all the youth between ages 14 and 18 will be invited to Youth Alpha being held at Haywards Heath Baptist Church. I will be joining the team to help them run the small groups, and the sessions will run each Sunday from 8 until 9 30!

Danny

what's
the
point?

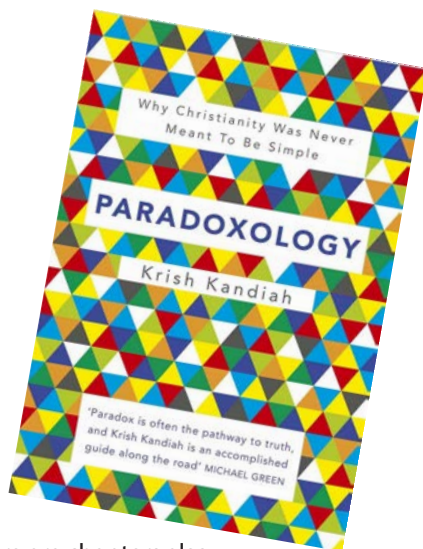
youthalpha

Book Review

Paradoxology

Kish Kandiah

Last year we went to one of the Keswick Convention weeks and I went along to a series of talks by Krish Kandiah which were based on his recent book 'Paradoxology'. He was an engaging speaker, full of gentle humour but obviously a man of very clear thinking, with a passion for the Lord Jesus Christ and his Word. His book is the same.



It is a book that has come from his own struggle to 'understand' God, of facing up to the hard statements or questions which 'consist of true statements that lead to an apparent or real contradiction in logic or intuition'. He states quite clearly that Christianity was never meant to be simple and throughout the Bible there are these seeming contradictions. Each chapter deals with a different conundrum such as;

- *The God who needs nothing but asks for everything.*
(The story of Abraham and Isaac)
- *The God who is terribly compassionate*
(Joshua and the Canaanites)
- *The God who is actively inactive*
(The life of Job)
- *The God who is indiscriminately selective* (The story of Jonah)
- *The God who is divinely human*
(Jesus' life on earth)
- *The God who wins when he loses*
(the cross)

There are chapters also on Esther, Judas and Corinthians.

Krish Kandiah is helping us not to avoid challenges but rather to face them and indeed wrestle with them and in so doing come to know God more. He writes:

“It is good and proper for us, far from papering over the cracks, as we have done too often in so many different ways, to keep straining to see through that dark glass, in the hope that we may discern clues and comfort from a loving God whose ways are so often inscrutable to us..... Through the power of the paradox may we come closer to his kingdom.”

This is a great read; challenging in content, but very readable. A book that doesn't claim to have all the answers but helps us to develop a Biblical way of thinking to look at challenging themes of the Bible and helps us to have a bigger view of God.

Val Cookney

Phonebook

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Lunch Fellowship

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Fiona Tingley 01444 483419

The Fellowship

Chris Comber 01444 482641

Stepping Stones

Jo Bloxham 01444 483672

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Janet Drayton 01444 483621

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Danny Goodall 07443 438970

Lighthouse (Junior Church)

Co-ordinator

Dawn Walters 01444 441601

Flower Rota

Arranging

Distributing

February

1st	Barbara Shepherd	Heather Swann
8th	Heather Swann	Janet Sanderson
15th	Jessie Green	Fo Tingley
22nd	Winifred Scopes	Nick Bingham

March

1st	Janet Wade	Sue Tester
8th	Betty Billins	Barbara Shepherd
15th	Carol Walters	Jo Bloxham
22nd	Mies Campling	Iris Bingham
29th	Zoe McQuillin	Heather Swann

Around Lindfield

Wednesday 11th February

12.15 pm Tiger Arts – Lunch in Lindfield URC

1.00 pm Concert – Lancing College Musicians (URC)

8.00 pm Horticultural Society in KEH

Contemporary Planting in an Amenity Environment.

Saturday 14th February

3.00 pm ROC on Saturday - Lindfield URC

Thursday 19th February

7.30 pm Village Film Night in KEH – The Hundred Foot Journey

Starring Helen Mirren

Saturday 21st February

7.45pm Hayward Heath Music Society

Janet Canetty-Clarke: Northern Lights - Grieg and Sibelius

Illustrated lecture at Haywards Heath Methodist Church

Further information from Christine Colbourne 456227

Saturday 28th February

3.00pm ROC on Saturday - Evangelical Free Church

