



GoodNEWS **MAGAZINE**

FREE MONTHLY

From Lindfield United Reformed Church

September 2015

Here I am!
I stand at the door
and knock.

If anyone hears my voice
and opens the door,
I will come in and
eat with that person,
and they with me.

Revelation 3:20 NIV

Bible verse of the month

**“Though a mighty
army surrounds me,
my heart will not be
afraid.”**

**Paslm 27 : 3
NIV**

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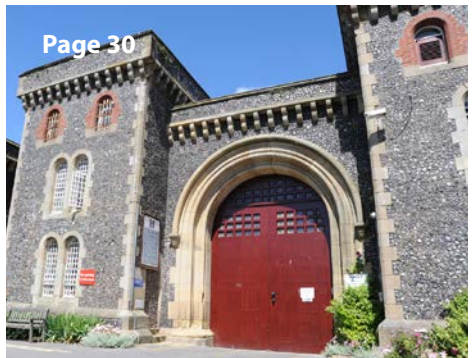
**Our verse this month comes
from Iris Bingham, see page
33 for more information.**

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

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Editorial

I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday and have come home refreshed and ready to enjoy life at home! Our September edition brings news and reflections from some of our members' summer travels.

Reading about what Danny has been busy doing over the last twelve months must be the highlight of our Church's endeavours, to spread the word of Jesus and His Good News. This is what our magazine is all about. Do read to see for yourselves what an incredible journey he is having with Young People.

A new term is starting for all the children and Youth organisations led by so many of our volunteers. Read how they manage to encourage and help our families to try to do the very best for everyone. The Lunch Fellowship give details of their contribution to helping provide fellowship and company to so many friends. Our Minister tells us what we can look forward to learning about in the church services in the future.

We hope that you all enjoy the contents of Good News, and that we are all ready to learn more about Jesus.

With thanks to all who have contributed in Good News.

Every blessing to you all.

Anne

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Dear friends

Can it really be six months since we moved to Ryecroft? At the end of September it will be a year since I received in the post the profile for Lindfield URC, and read it trying to discern whether this was where God was calling me, and my family. Time seems to have flown and we are feeling more and more settled, finding it a joy to live in the village and to worship in the church.

One of the great joys is the surrounding countryside. It has allowed much celebration of the goodness of God, particularly as blackberries have been ripening where I walk the dog. I have also been watching a field, which was bare mud when we first arrived, show shoots, turn green and become a golden colour as the summer has progressed. Also, unhampered by excessive light pollution, in mid-August the night sky was dark enough for the family to lie on the lawn with a blanket and wonder at the beauty of creation as we watched the Perseid's meteor shower; although I have often tried to observe this in past years I have never before seen so many, or any that were so bright. There are many joys to life in rural Mid-Sussex.

However, the same night we watched the shooting stars Spike, our cat, brought home something we had not previously had to deal with in our old urban setting.

No not a mouse, nor a bird, nor a bat (which we sometimes see flying in the garden) but on the top of his head was a small tick. I had last encountered a tick when I worked in a summer camp in America over 20 years ago, then I frequently had them removed from me by tweezers (the first aider used to joke about how the ticks seemed to like the Scottish blood). However, fortuitously, having recently read about the dangers of ticks I have just purchased a tick removal device, which looks like a miniature claw from the head of a hammer. I set to work, but Spike did not particularly enjoy this minor operation. He was perhaps even unaware that the tick was present and was not keen for his head to be held still by Emmeline while I got the tool onto his head, twiddled the tick and extracted it. He was unhappy that we did it, but he will be better that we did.

When I worked in the camp I was often unaware of a tick until I saw it in a mirror, or checked my legs and arms. There are times we are unaware of things in our life that eat us and poison us. Perhaps they were tiny matters which bit us some time ago, perhaps it is something wrong that you don't realise is present, but the presence grows making us ill; so examine yourself in the light of scripture and see what in your life needs removing and cleansing by God.

Sermon Plan

In the first letter of John we see it written,

“*If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*”

1John1: 8-9 NIV

The bad habit, an addiction, hatred, or other thing that is not of God, may seem difficult to remove, it might seem easier to just ignore it and carry on as if before, but while paying no attention to it may seem like a valid solution, and a lot easier, in the long term it is poor way forward. So do not be too settled, but consider what you do and say, and whether it is right, and seek the truth to fill your life.

Your Minister

Keith

In September and October we will be looking at the parables, particularly those we find in Mark's gospel. Unlike many of the readings we have recently been exploring, where we have heard Old Testament passages that give us a picture of actual individuals and tried to think of what we can learn of who we are in our relation to God, the parables of Jesus tend to be very short stories that are analogies based on characters and objects that are familiar, but not real individuals.

The parables can sometimes be thought of as falling into 1 of 3 categories; how we are to live, how the Kingdom grows, and what will happen on the day of Christ's return; though some might argue that these big themes are so intertwined that we can never view one in isolation.

Although very short the stories are also deep, and the disciples did not always understand quite what Jesus was saying to them.

We have the added issue that the cultural setting of the first century and the way we live in the twenty first, are quite different and I guess most of us are unused to handling things like wineskins, or oil lamps, however although the world changes, the way of the world does not and nor does God's love and His promises, so the message of the parables remains true.

Keith

Family News

Thank You

Thank you for all the support you gave me at 'Betty's At Home'!

Those who helped on the day, cakes and scones made, donations given, this enabled such a tremendous result for the day. The day would not have been so successful if we did not have so many people coming to enjoy the fellowship.

I felt it was a real outreach day in the community.

The result being £378.50 for the women's Section Royal British Legion Benevolent Fund

Grateful thanks,

Betty Billins

Congratulations

Special Congratulations to Gordon and Iris Bingham on their Golden Wedding Anniversary which was on 27th August.

We send love from all your Church Family and hope that you had a wonderful day.

Ladies In Touch

The Ladies 'In Touch' Group will meet this month on the **29th September** (please note revised date), when our speaker will be Bridget Pepper who is a major fund raiser for Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Bridget's daughter passed away with Kidney Cancer in 1995 and since then Bridget has been involved in raising funds for them. When we have an outside speaker, I would encourage you to come and support these evenings, if you can.

'In Touch' is open to all Ladies and meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month in the Lounge at 7.45pm unless otherwise stated. Please feel free to join us whenever you can.

For more information about the group or to input ideas for further meetings,

Please contact
Sue Waller 455047



18-20th September 2015

The Fellowship

Our first meeting of the new season will be held on Wednesday 23rd September, starting at 2.30pm. After a short AGM our Minister Rev Keith Morrison will be our speaker.

There will be the usual Bring and Buy stall, if you have any books or anything for such a stall do please bring it along.

A cup of tea and a warm welcome awaits all who come.

Pat Phillips

Spring/Autumn Clean

The Managers would like you help for a cleaning and minor repairs morning on Saturday 12th September from 9.00am to 12 noon.

If you could assist please let David Walters or any of the managers know beforehand, if possible, just so that we can save time on the day allocation tasks.

Many thanks
David Walters

Lunch Fellowship

The Lunch Fellowship will meet again on the 2nd September at the usual time of 12.30pm.

If you usually attend and have not yet signed up please ring and book your place.

Similarly if you are new and would like to come along please do, the number to ring is 455047. Or speak to Sue Waller, thank you.

Lunches are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month, three courses and are £3.00.

All meals are cooked on the premises with a great assortment of homemade sweets, followed by tea or coffee.

Dates are as follows :

- **2nd September**
- **6th October**
- **4th November**

and a special Christmas Lunch on the **2nd December** (£ 4.00).

Please ring to book you place if you have not signed the Lunch register.

Thank you

Sue Waller

Perdido Players

Saturday 7th November at 3:00pm

The Perdido Players Swing Band and Sister Sister singing group will play a concert on the above date at Lindfield URC.

It is short notice but the Perdido had an event postponed that would have probably generated over a £1,000 for the Hospice.

The Sister Sister group, which involves some of our church members, readily agreed to support the band in the quest to make up some of the shortfall from the postponement. We would like to see a full house and there will be no admission charge but there will be a retiring collection.

Please contact

Peter Swann 450335



'In Touch' - Quiet Day

On Saturday 18th July the LURC 'In Touch' ladies group held their annual 'Quiet Day'. It was sensitively led by Naomi McBain from Hurstpierpoint.

She used the book of Esther and helped us to think about the similarities in our own lives.

The day was, as the name suggests, a very quiet, prayerful day. Naomi had created beautiful calming areas around the church for us to visit and be inspired by. She brought a young lady called Kelly with her, and in the afternoon Kelly gave her testimony.

She had been so traumatised by terrible things which had happened throughout her life, that her ability to make sentences and communicate had been seriously impaired.

Naomi has prayerfully counselled her for the past 18 months, and it was extraordinary to listen to her fluently witnessing to how God's love and power has changed her. I don't think there was a dry eye in the church!

Our monthly meetings are a rewarding time of fellowship and we welcome ladies of all ages who would like to join us as we enjoy a variety of speakers and activities.

Lesley Sparks

Tunes and Tea

A note to say thank you to all who contributed whether it be by performance, refreshments or setting up the church for the event. it is appreciated.

The synchronised "chorus girls" were a "hit" even a member of the audience came on stage to join them. The spontaneity of Comber and Swann bass and tuba duet brought some additional hilarity to the event.

Our efforts were financially rewarded with £268 and other additional monies paid direct to the hospice for gift aid recovery.

Another opportunity afforded was to highlight the work of ROC (Redeeming our Communities) and also to illustrate that our church makes people feel at home.

Peter Swann

Can you help?

Please consider blessing a house-bound church member by offering them a lift to a service once a month (then await God's blessing on your life to receive a lift of a different kind yourself !)

All offers + requests to your own Car Czar

Please Contact
Janet D. 483621

Pastoral Group

Some people have been asking about the work of the Pastoral group and as no one else seemed to volunteer I will do my best to explain.

The Pastoral group meet every two months to pray for the needs of the Church particularly the housebound, those in hospital and those with more personal needs.

We try our best to find time to visit such people. We also arrange a car outing and tea in the summer for those people of pensionable age which is generally well received .

At Christmas we give Gifts of plants or sweets or biscuits to those folk.

I hope this gives you some idea of the work and witness of the Pastoral group.

Your Brother in Christ

Cliff Griffiths

Flower Distribution

If anyone else would like to be involved with distributing the church flowers on Monday morning at 10.30am

Please contact
Heather Swann 450335

Jersey Jottings

On a recent holiday to the Island of Jersey several things spoke to Betty and I as lessons we should all learn when we profess the Christian Faith.

Maybe a difference we noticed most in Jersey was how very helpful and friendly people were, and courteous on the roads! Crossing a road was not hazardous as it can be in Lindfield – pedestrians were nearly always given priority by motorists, and there was no hooting of horns, despite the narrow roads. Lesson one – to be patient with one another and considerate to their needs. We found the ‘locals’ went out of their way to direct us if we were intently looking at our street map. One man even opened his window to ask if he could help, something I do not think we would find here, despite living in such a friendly village as Lindfield!

So lesson two, always be helpful whenever you get the opportunity, whether or not you know the person concerned. It makes you and them feel happy to be valued, and I guess it pleases God a bit too!

A subject that is very near to Betty’s heart is using the buses. We found the bus service on Jersey extremely efficient and we were able use them to get around to almost any part of the island. But here in Mid Sussex we have a lot to learn about bus stations!



The one in St Helier was efficiently laid out and worked well for the bus drivers and their passengers. The lesson here is to work as efficiently as possible, whatever we are doing.

Of course, buses need roads. Because the roads are so narrow and used by coaches, buses and lorries as well as cars and bicycles, Jersey has a rule that all hedges bordering the roads have to be cut back twice a year, or the landowners receive a heavy fine! Like the Jersey roads, we may be restricted in some way, but despite that, it is up to us to make the best use of the time and talents God has given to us.

Lesson five is a plea to follow the instructions in the Bible. There is a causeway over the sand on which one can walk to Elizabeth Castle. The day we went a couple ignored the notice saying the tide would cover the causeway by 2.15pm, resulting in them getting very wet! With the scriptures we can be soaked in God's word.

When my parents were in business many years ago, one thing we all sought to do was give 'Service with a smile!' All the staff in our hotel (many of them from the Continent) did just that. Nothing was too much trouble, and those waiting at table were more than ready to share a bit of banter with the guests. It made such a difference!

As we go about our everyday lives, let's share a smile with our neighbour or the person in the street. Who knows, it may be the only smile they see that day. Remember, as Christians we are smiling on behalf of God.

The final lesson we learnt from our hotel window. We had a fascinating view of the beach and rocks beyond. When the tide was out the view was more as I might imagine a moonscape, so a real contrast to high tide when most of the rocks had disappeared. All this is part of our God's wonderful creation. During our lifetime our circumstances will ebb and flow just like the tide, but God is the same yesterday, today and forever. His love for us never changes. All the more reason to put our faith and trust in Him!

Fiona Tingley



Sound Seminar

Update : Broadcasting to the World and in High Definition.

You may remember that around a year to eighteen months ago I wrote a series of articles for the church magazine detailing the operation of the various aspects the sound and projection systems in the church.

Since then you may have noticed that we have been doing some upgrade work particularly on the projector system, and so it was suggested that a further article giving an update on the various developments might be timely.

The most obvious change is that we have installed a new screen and projector. Less obviously, we have also changed all the screens around the church, and most recently, we have installed a screen in the lounge for the benefit of those in the crèche, so that they can be fully involved in the service, being able to see what is happening in the church.

Words on the screen are enlarged and video is now clearer and brighter as we display in wide-screen and at full high definition. We have also installed a camera system so that we can produce the video feed for the remote screens and have a feed available to the upper room so that, if we need an overflow, we can quickly set one up in the upper room.

In the gallery, we have done quite a bit of upgrading which allows us to mix between the computer and live video feeds as needed. Normally, only the computer signal is sent to the projector, with the video feed being sent to the screens in the concourse to help people see around the pillars, the lounge and the upper room if needed. We have the facility to feed the full video signal to the main screen for special occasions if helpful, for example if we have a baptismal service, or if the puppets are being used.

The other big upgrade is that we now stream the audio of the services via the church website. The signal we send to the recorder is split and sent through a box which compresses and tailors the sound to make it work as well as possible over the stream, and then send it to the Internet.

The audience is very small, but important. The stream connects those temporarily unable to attend, their carers and residents in local care homes. Allowing all to share in worship and teaching as it happens and really helping them feel part of our fellowship.



Who am I?

We have received some wonderful feedback from 'listeners' for whom this facility has already provided invaluable comfort and support.

This is different from making the sermons available on-line because this is the whole service, and is only available live. It is governed by a licence based on an estimated number of listeners to enable us to include copyrighted material such as many of the songs we use and the Bible readings, in the stream. It is only the audio which is streamed and as much as possible we try to ensure that the signal is only live during the service to avoid too much of the general background noise being streamed.

Obviously, these various aspects of the worship life of the church rely on people being willing to be involved in operating them, and we currently have openings on the technical team, particularly for projector operators both in the morning and in the evening, and for video operators. We provide full training before you go live for the first time on your own. If you would be interested in being involved, please see me.

Richard Walters

The mystery Scottish worshipper in our congregation featured in the "Who am I" slot in the summer edition of Good News was Penny Fanner. Penny and her husband, Rob, live in Summerhill Lane, Lindfield.

If you don't know her, do have a chat with Penny over a cup of tea at one of our services and find out what her favourite chocolates are and where she holidays in Cornwall!



September Prayer

Loving Father,

Please help us with all the new things September brings: a new school year, new stages of life, with children moving on or out, new challenges for many as summer gives way to autumn. Help us in this season of change to know the constant reality of Jesus.

Thank you for the new life He freely offers to all who turn to Him.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching (Parish Pump)

Worship

The Philosopher King sat in his study, applying the collected wisdom of his many years to the same old puzzle. Meaning was not to be found in knowledge, riches, fame, science, great building projects, food, drink, hedonism or conquest of nations. He had tried them all, and many more besides. Everything was meaningless, a 'chasing after the wind'.

This is the story of King Solomon; you can find it in the book 'Ecclesiastes' in the Bible's Old Testament. He lived around 3,000 years ago in Jerusalem and was widely regarded as the wisest and wealthiest person of his age. His net worth in today's money is estimated in the region of £15 Billion.

As an old man he became dissatisfied with his accomplishments and set himself the task of finding the meaning of life. If anyone could, surely he could. Solomon is responsible for much of the philosophy and wisdom we find in the books of Proverbs and Psalms in the bible (for example, Proverbs 16 v.18 is where we get 'pride comes before fall' from).

It is interesting to read the 12 chapters of Ecclesiastes and see what conclusions this ancient philosopher, who spent most of his life running away from God reached at the end of many years of study.

“Don't let the excitement of youth cause you to forget your Creator. Honour Him in your youth before you grow old and say, 'Life is not pleasant anymore.'”

Ecclesiastes 12:1 - NLT

The Westminster shorter Catechism from 1647 puts it like this:

Q. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

So, if we are to accept the advice of the wise old King of Israel (who had tried everything else), and those back in the 17th century who were seeking to open the church to all people, meaning is to be found in remembering our Creator and worshipping Him.

Perhaps this is why many people still meet today in churches across the world to learn about God and to honour Him every Sunday. At Lindfield URC we meet for three services on a typical Sunday. Our 9:30 family service normally lasts for around an hour and when we meet, we sing modern and traditional worship songs led by a group of musicians. We share in an 'all age' teaching time, we will also pray together, read the bible and unpack the meaning of the bible reading in a longer teaching time for the adults.

The children normally go to their 'lighthouse' groups to learn through play, craft or discussion depending on their age.



At 11:15 the service is a more traditional time with organ-led hymns, prayers and teaching.

Our 6:30 service meets in the church lounge for a more intimate time of prayer and worship, meeting around Gods word. You can find out what's going on each week in our church at our website: www.lindfieldurc.org.uk. Details of services are in the weekly online notice sheet. If you can't make it to a service yourself you can always listen to the online live stream (details on the website).

Our vision statement is summarised as:

Lindfield United Reformed Church – worshipping God, sharing the good news of Jesus and seeing lives changed by his love.

We try to live this out day by day, not just on Sundays. Why not come along one Sunday, or at another event shown in this magazine and join us on the journey, you would be most welcome.

David Goodchild

Oban Pentecost

Many of you will remember Rev Ian McFarlane, and his powerful yet gracious ministry at our Church Weekend in 2010 at Great Walstead School. Jean and I attended Ian's farewell service at Bookham Baptist Church almost three years ago, but instead of the expected retirement, Ian found himself facing a new challenge, a call from the Baptist Church at Oban, West Scotland, to help minister to a situation in which church communities and individual relationships had been damaged over a number of years. It was a situation in which many people were in desperate need of spiritual care.

At Ian's invitation, a group from Bookham visited Oban this year to be part of a week of prayer leading to Pentecost Sunday.

The group discovered that in the comparatively short time that Ian and Ros had been there, relationships had been restored, a unity among churches of all denominations was growing, and there was a very real sense of the Spirit being on the move both in the churches and in the local community.



Shoe Boxes

Operation Christmas Child

Pentecost Sunday evening service was entitled "Open Heaven" the climax of a weekly series of Sunday evening gatherings to which Ian had invited neighbouring churches to join in open worship to seek God's face.

The church was full to overflowing on Pentecost Sunday, with people gathered from churches of various denominations from along the West Scottish coastline – about 180 miles long, some having travelled 3 hours to get there. The worship leader writes, "***At one point, both Ian and I stopped singing and left the congregation to sing out their praises.***"

There were tears of joy, tears of laughter, many prophetic words and a community spirit worth learning from. There were many church leaders present from many different churches but all were united in their love of God and their anticipation of Kingdom business being undertaken.

Mike Gardiner

(adapted with permission from a longer account in Bookham Baptist Community News)



It's that time of year when we reluctantly begin planning for Autumn and Christmas activities.

We will again be supporting the Operation Christmas Child shoe box appeal.

Could we please count on your support again? Last year we sent 125 boxes for this wonderful charity. Let's see if we can beat that! (With kind support from the Evan Free church).

The boxes are usually collected in early November. We have the ready made boxes again if you find this easier. Please see either Brian or myself if you wish to begin filling the shoe box in advance. Leaflets will be handed out in October and collection date will be in the notice sheet nearer the time.

Any queries please contact us on 01444 487809.

Thank you

Jill & Brian O'Mant.

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.

September Church diary

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---------|---------------------------------------|
| 2nd Wednesday | 12:30pm | Lunch Fellowship | 20th Sunday | 9:30am | Family Worship |
| | | | | 11:15am | Morning Worship Rev Keith Morrison |
| 5th Saturday | 8:45am | 3 Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints | | 6:30pm | Evening Worship Rev Keith Morrison |
| 6th Sunday | 9:30am | Family Worship | 22nd Tuesday | 7:45pm | In Touch see 29th |
| | 11:15am | Morning Worship Rev Keith Morrison | | | |
| | 6:30pm | Evening Worship Rev Keith Morrison | 23rd Wednesday | 2:30pm | Afternoon Fellowship |
| | | | | 7:45pm | Elders' Meeting |
| 10th Thursday | 8:00pm | Church Meeting | 24th Thursday | 8:00pm | Church Prayer Meeting |
| 12th Saturday | 8:45am | 3 Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints | 26th Saturday | 8:45am | 3 Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints |
| | 9:00am-noon | Spring/Autumn Clean | | | |
| 13th Sunday | 9:30am | Family Worship | 27th Sunday | 9:30am | Communion |
| | 11:15am | Morning Worship Rev Keith Morrison | | 11:15am | Communion Rev Keith Morrison |
| | 6:30pm | Communion Rev Keith Morrison | | 6:30pm | Evening Worship Rev Keith Morrison |
| 17th Thursday | | House Groups | 29th Tuesday | 7:45pm | In Touch (note change of date) |
| 19th Saturday | 8:45am | 3 Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints | | | |
| | Lindfield | Arts Festival | | | |

YOUTH



Hello Again!

Has it really been a year already? I am amazed at how fast my first year at Lindfield URC has gone by, but I have to say it is because I have had so much fun!

I want to focus on a few things that I have learnt over the past year at Lindfield URC, so here goes...

1 I have learnt that God is good! Now, I knew this before I came to Lindfield URC, but it has been so clear this past year that God is good! His plans for us are good and He guides us whether we are aware of it or not! I am so thankful that God led me to Lindfield URC and I am excited to see what He has planned for the year to come!

2 I have learnt that pizza can solve anything! This was a great thing to learn at the beginning of the year. It is also a great tool to use to get people of any age to a meeting. I am also amazed at how much people are able to consume!

3 I have learnt that I can learn more from the youth than I can teach them! The youth at Lindfield URC are an amazing group and they never cease to show me something new. I have learnt skills from them, I have learnt confidence from them and I have learnt truths about God through them. They have made my first year a great one!

PAGES

4 I have learnt how to play badminton!

5 I have learnt that 2 hours in a coffee shop with someone is more valuable than 2 days in the office! An honest conversation over a cup of coffee is the best way to build strong relationships. As a Youth Pastor, I would not be able to do my job very well without strong relationships and so investing time in young people is the best use of my day.

6 I have learnt that people give you strange looks if you buy £65 worth of fizzy drinks and chocolate! Not sure there is much more to say about this one!

7 I have learnt to be flexible. This applies to Pastoring youth as well as being a husband. The order of importance can change as the day goes on and so I have learnt to stay flexible and go where God is leading me.

8 I have learnt that even though I have gone through the P.U.L.S.E. cupboard about five times, there are still things in there that I am not aware of! I love to have things organised, so that I know what is where and how I can access things. However, I am still amazed at the items that I find in that cupboard that seem to just 'appear'!

9 I have learnt that Lindfield URC are incredibly welcoming and encouraging! This has been very important for me during my year at Lindfield URC, as I quickly knew that I was supported and loved by so many people.

This year has taught me a lot about myself, about church and about Christ. I want to thank everyone for your prayers and support and I am so thrilled to be entering a second year at Lindfield URC. I pray that God would continue to bless this church and use it for His glory. May Lindfield URC continue to be a shining light in the village of Lindfield.

Danny

Boys Brigade

We are fortunate to have some talented athletes in the BB Company. At the annual Harriers Cross Country Run, held in Glynde Village, we scored well: Brandon Read won Gold in the 12 year old age group, while Scott and Ryan Backshall got Gold and Silver in the 13/14 age group, and won the trophy.

On a blazing hot day in July, Terry and Wesley Heyward and myself guided a group of lads on a 7 mile walk from Lindfield to Horsted Keynes, a kind of 'open air' classroom to teach Boys map reading, compass reading and cooking prior to them taking up the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. – a useful piece of training, and a day of happy fellowship in its own right.

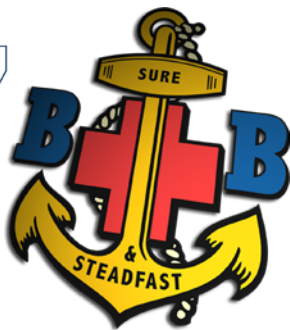
The good weather didn't last: when Glynde Camp started, there was the most massive downpour of the year, but Boys are quite resilient, and high spirits were not dampened for long. Amid the fun and

games, and light hearted camaraderie, there ran like a thread that particular brand of Glynde magic: a wonderful uplifting spirit. And the week ended in brilliant sunshine! We were pleased to welcome Keith to Glynde, and he spent most of a day with us, sharing in devotions, and getting to know the staff.

When we start the new session in September, please pray for our spiritual and numerical growth. We would be especially pleased to welcome boys from Church families. My own view of Church life is crystal clear: the Church is an enlarged family whose members should be supporting each other, and encouraging parents to ensure that their children get all the spiritual nourishment they can possibly get by belonging to Christian organisations.

Geoffrey Cocksedge

THE BOYS'
 BRIGADE
 >the adventure begins here



Lighthouse Update

It seems as if it was only yesterday that we welcomed Danny and Ruth and began a new academic year in September 2014 and yet a whole year has gone by already!

It has been a good year in Lighthouse, we have been delighted to welcome new children and families which has been a real encouragement and we have reviewed and continued our prayer buddies scheme, providing individual prayer support for each child within Lighthouse, which was endorsed wholeheartedly by families and prayer buddies alike.

After Christmas we had a family outing and went bowling in Horsham together and as summer approached we took the opportunity to have a picnic for all the children, parents and teachers from Lighthouse.

This was kindly hosted by Keith and Emmeline at the manse and it was lovely to have a chance to eat and chat together and for the children to spend time in fellowship just as much as the adults.

Over the month of August the children have enjoyed being led by a number of different people and our grateful thanks go to all who generously give of their time so that the regular teachers can have time off over the summer.

From September some teachers are now having a complete break from Lighthouse having been working with the children for various periods and thanks go to them too for all their input and commitment.



As we enter a new academic year our groups and vision remain the same. Our Sunday morning 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. If this is something you would like to consider then please speak to Danny or myself.

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! We are drawing to the close of our current series which has been Gods Sports Academy. We have learned something about various sports and have thought about what they can teach us about following Jesus and being his disciples. If you want to know more then please ask one of the children! We are starting a new series in September so watch the Jigsaw board in the hall for clues on our new theme!

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 for 2015/16 would be God's planning and not just ours and that we would all grow closer to Him.

Dawn Walters

Lighthouse Coordinator

Stepping Stones

The Stepping Stones team are all looking forward with renewed vigour to the start of a new term on Tuesday 8th September after our summer break. The team consists of five regular helpers including Danny, our church Youth Pastor, who are there every week and give such valuable support.

We also have a rota of six other enthusiastic helpers, who provide tea and biscuits as well as lots more! The group could not operate without the time, effort and love offered by all these people. We have been so pleased that Keith, our new Minister, has also been able to be available to talk to the parents and children and we do hope that he will continue to support the group in this way. If you would like to be involved in Stepping Stones, we would be delighted to include you in the team.

As you probably know Stepping Stones aim to provide an opportunity for parents, carers and children of up to three years of age to meet every week to make friends and enjoy the session together. Each week we include a story time for the children while they enjoy drinks and a snack, a craft activity and some singing and action rhymes often with a Christian theme. We always end our time together with the children with a prayer.

The team always gather before each session to pray for the group and for the needs of the families that they may know God's love for them in their lives.

If you know of any new families in the area with children aged under three years we would welcome them to the group. We aim to be open to all who wish to come and have achieved that aim over the last year without the need of a waiting list. The numbers attending each week vary, especially during the summer term when many families are out and about, but this term we have had an average of around thirty children.

So a new term at Stepping Stones awaits and we are looking forward to meeting new families and seeing those friendly faces we have come to know over the past few terms. We all enjoy being amongst the children and the fun they have. It can be noisy, but we wouldn't want it any other way!

Jo Bloxham

Engine Room

Why the Engine Room?

To remind us that as a ship is powered by the engine room, the church is powered by the prayer meeting. The prayer meeting has been called “the powerhouse of the church”

Here are some comments from people who come on a Monday.

“I really value attending the weekly prayer time on a Monday morning, as well as the Thursday Church Prayer meeting once a month.

Subjects that perhaps I would never think to pray for are often covered, and those praying for them much better informed than I. ”

“It helps to concentrate the mind and focus thoughts on prayer.”



“It’s good to meet together in prayer on a Monday to prayerfully reflect on the Sunday services.”

“A time to slow down and look ahead to the rest of the week.”

“A good way to start the week.”

“The Monday morning corporate prayer time seems to me to be the most fitting way for retired folk to begin the week. There’s no higher activity than the practising of God’s presence especially with church family members.”

Why not join us on a Monday or 4th Thursday and find out for yourself.

Our Favourite City

Magnificent architecture, a fast-flowing river, shiny red buses, happy faces, good-natured crowds, well-organised traffic, that's London! Sunshine and shadows, noise and silence, that's London! Rich and poor together, that's London! We love it!

Mike and I recently spent a week in London caring for our daughter's house – together with a rabbit and a cat. We made good use of our 'bus pass and our strong legs. One day we did a London Walk visiting those hidden parts of London that are not usually seen. Our cheery leader had been an elephant keeper and amused us with her stories.

Another day we explored Dulwich Park and the accompanying world famous Picture Gallery. In my imagination I could see my Dad who grew up in Dulwich one hundred years ago and he would have had played in the park.

London abounds with superb eating places, Italian, Lebanese, Greek, French and so on. We enjoyed an English breakfast out and on another occasion an Italian meal with our grandson to celebrate his 21st birthday.

Dulwich Park & Picture Gallery
www.dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk





All Souls Church, Langham Place

So many museums to choose from that we dithered but in view of the WW1 interest this year we went to the Imperial War Museum. The museum was crowded and memories were crowded too as people remembered their 'war days'. I looked at a small Mickey Mouse gas mask and remembered its strange smell. Again the Holocaust Exhibition was crowded, but strangely so very quiet. We emerged into the brilliant sunshine thanking God for the peace of our country. We experienced a fresh determination to pray for all those caught up in war.

The Wallace Collection is always worth a visit, it's free too. The pictures, furniture and even the wall paper are superb. www.wallacecollection.org

The icing on the cake for us was our visit to All Souls Church, Langham Place. The Sunday morning service was at 11.30 and we arrived there – at 11.30 on the dot! The Church was packed with people from all nations, the singing was tremendous and we enjoyed hearing Doctor Chris Wright expounding the eleventh chapter of Romans. An uplifting service but we missed the warm love of LURC.

We wanted to do so much but time ran out but we are left with exciting memories of our favourite city.

Jean and Mike Gardiner

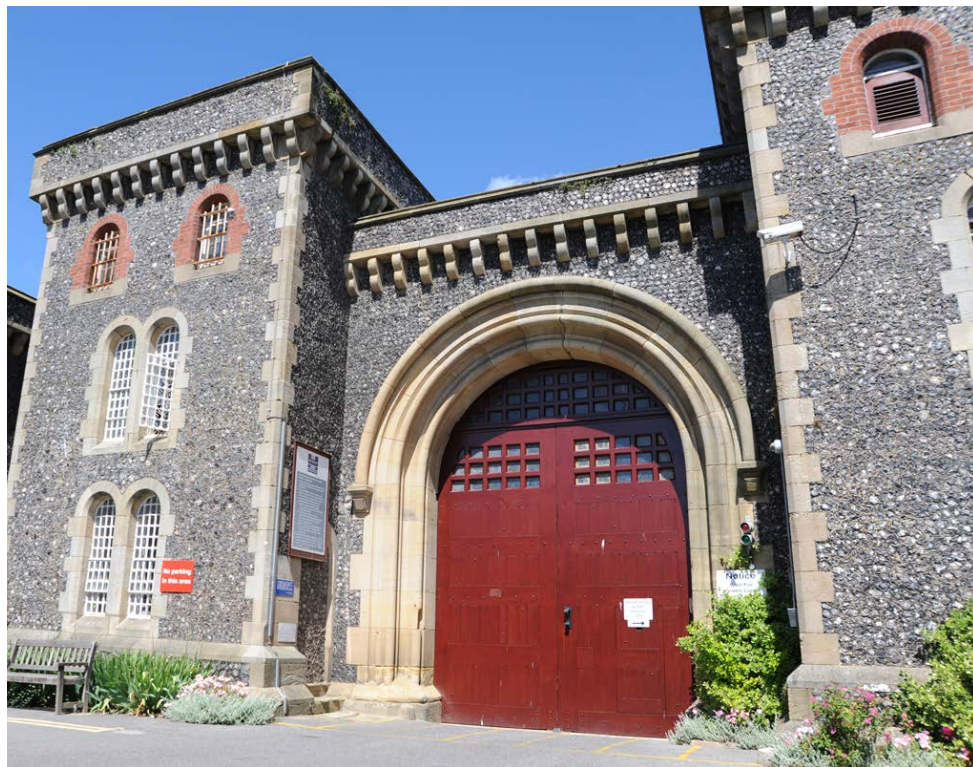
Mission Group

September/October 2015 : Crawley Prison Fellowship

During September and October we shall once again be supporting Crawley Prison Fellowship (PF) Group.

The Group is one of 120 PF prayer groups across the UK. Its members, drawn from churches across Central Sussex fulfil PF's mission to show Christ's love to the prisoners at HMP Lewes by coming alongside them and supporting them, applying the Gospel Message: Matthew 25 verse 35: "I was in prison and you came to visit me."

The impact of Crawley Prison Fellowship's work at HMP Lewes was recognised, in the June 2015 Honours List, by the award of the MBE to one of the leaders: Valerie Maynard, for services to prisoners and prison families. This has been greatly welcomed, both by the Group and also the Governor, staff and prisoners at Lewes. Valerie, together with her husband, Nigel, has visited Lindfield URC several times speaking about PF work at services and, last year, to In Touch.



The Group:

- meets monthly to pray for prisoners, their families, and prison staff
- supports the Chaplaincy, taking Chapel services and providing fellowship to the prisoners on the Wings
- provides Christmas presents to prisoners' children (Angel Tree). Each gift is sent as though from the father in prison and a message to his child is included
- provides the tutor and mentors to run six-week long Sycamore Tree Victim Awareness courses. Once an offender has appreciated and accepted the effect of his/her crimes on victims and the community, then preparing for a release which will not involve reoffending is much more possible.

What is the Impact of the work?

Nisha, who is a new member of the Crawley Prison Fellowship team, writing to and encouraging prisoners, tells of her time in prison in Manchester: "the PF volunteers who visited did not judge us or look at us differently from people outside prison. We all looked forward to their visits. During the week different activities were co-ordinated. These helped us not to focus on our problems."

A recent weekly email of prayer requests from the HMP Lewes Chaplaincy said: "Give thanks that at least three prisoners, due to leave this week, will be able to return to their partners and children. Angel Tree has helped by bringing these families back together. The partners, because of the fathers' letters and Christmas presents to their children, are willing to give the prisoners another chance."

A young 21 year old Lewes prisoner, Darryl, wrote of his experience on Sycamore Tree: "Since coming to prison, and especially since doing the Sycamore Tree course, I have come to see the ripple effects of my business (drug dealing) and the victims it creates. My only, and best, way of giving back to my victims is to continue trying to change my life for the better and find a different route: one that has hopefully no victims and enables me to give back to the community."

More information is available at the Mission display area.

Crawley PF Group needs financial support for Angel Tree presents and also for the costs of running Sycamore Tree courses.

If you would like to give towards this work please use the special mission-giving envelopes and place your gift in the offertory at any of the Sunday services. Please complete a Gift Aid slip if appropriate. Cheques should be made payable to Lindfield URC.

Know Lindfield?

The first in a series of quiz photos to see how well you know our beautiful village of Lindfield. Do you know?

Where is this junction?

What is this junction known as?

Answer in the next issue of Good News



Bible Verse

'Though a mighty army surrounds me, my heart will not be afraid.

Psalms 27:3 NIV

Dear Friends, I have felt so blessed and upheld by prayer, cards, flowers and e-mails, these last few months,

It is good to belong to such a caring Church family, and I thank God for the wonderful encouragement, love & concern you have shown me -and my family over time. It is so very much appreciated.

Thank you and God bless you all!

I would like to share the following extract, which I find a great source of strength and comfort during times of distress:

Yours in Christ

Iris

Keep Your Confidence No Matter What Happens

by Holley Gerth

*There is nothing you will face
this week that's bigger than
your God.*

*No problem. No struggle. No
opposition.*

*He can't be defeated and
therefore you can't be
defeated either.*

*Yes, there may be some
battles.*

*You may even be wounded.
But you will not be overcome.*

*Hold tightly to your
confidence*

*And refuse to let anyone or
anything take it from you.*

*You're stronger than you feel
right now.*

*And your God is even more
powerful than you can
imagine.*

*With Him on your side
Victory is sure*

Source: 'Heart to Heart with Holley'

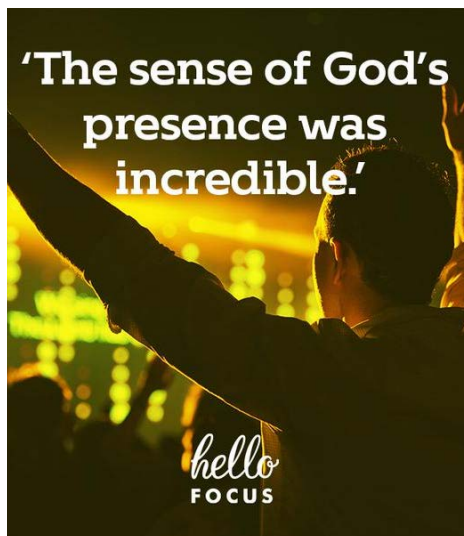
Focus 2015

In late July, Jonny and I were fortunate enough to attend Focus 2015 – a week away for the congregation of Holy Trinity Brompton and the extended family of churches connected through the church planting activities that have been going on at HTB since 1985. All in all there were well over 6,000 attendees at the event in Camber Sands, and we were treated to a wide variety of teaching and worship sessions in the big top as well as a variety of seminars, smaller sessions and relaxing downtime that made for a fantastic week away with friends, old and new.

It was an opportunity to dust off my sleeping bag and go camping which was surprisingly pleasant given the apocalyptic weather conditions over the first few days, resulting in some of the upmarket tepee tents being evacuated!

The teaching across the week was excellent, with talks from a diverse range of preachers from very different backgrounds including R T Kendall, Bishop of London Richard Chartres, Heidi Baker, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby and Jo Saxton (and if you are interested there are recordings of many of these talks available online :

www.htb.org/media/event/Focus+2015



But for me the best part was just taking time to relax with the Christian family I have found since living in London!

This week away along with other recent experiences has given me immense hope for the future of Christianity in the UK and beyond – we live in a time we are being told religion is becoming increasingly 'irrelevant' but all across this country there are thriving Christian communities bringing the Gospel to those around them.

As for next year, I'm looking forward to booking my patch of grass down in Camber for another great week away!

Alex Hall

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Treasurer

Terry Ward 01444 482986

Boys' Brigade:

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Cradle Roll

Mel Campling 01444 484140

Flowers

Betty Billins 01444 484494

Hall Booking Secretary

Shirley Anton 01444 482819

In Touch

Sue Waller 01444 455047

Lunch Fellowship

Sue Waller 01444 455047

Pastoral Group

Fiona Tingley 01444 483419

The Fellowship

Chris Comber 01444 482641

Stepping Stones

Jo Bloxham 01444 483672

Transport

Janet Drayton 01444 483621

Lighthouse (Junior Church)

Co-ordinator
Dawn Walters 01444 441601

Flower Rota

| | Arranging | Distributing |
|-----------|------------------|-----------------|
| September | | |
| 6th | Winifred Scopes | Iris Bingham |
| 13th | Mac Turner | Heather Swann |
| 20th | Jean Baxter | Janet Sanderson |
| 27th | Zoe McQuillin | Fo Tingley |
| October | | |
| 4th | Mies Campling | Sue Tester |
| 11th | Harvest Festival | Nick Bingham |
| 18th | Jessie Green | Jo Bloxham |
| 25th | Janet Wade | Iris Bingham |

Around Lindfield

Wednesday 9th September

12.15pm Tiger Arts - Lunch in Lindfield URC

1.00pm Concert : Emma Nibloe - Flute

7.00pm Preservation Society : KEH "The Face of Westminster"

Saturday 12th September

2.00pm Horticultural Society Autumn Show

Flowers and Produce in KEH

Weekend 18-20th September

Lindfield Arts Festival

more information : www.lindfieldartsfestival.com



Thursday 24th September

7.30pm Lindfield Film Evening : "Woman in Gold"

Helen Mirren : in KEH

Tickets £6.00 (incl refreshments) available from Tufnells

Saturday 26th September

7.45pm Haywards Heath Music Society - Concert, St Wilfrids Church, HH

Katherine Smith (flute) and Panaretos Kyriatzidis (piano)

Further information : www.haywardsheathmusicsociety.org.uk



www.lindfieldurc.org.uk