

# *Good***NEWS** **MAGAZINE**

FREE MONTHLY

From Lindfield United Reformed Church

Winter 2015/16



the **Gift** fm 87.9  
unwrap the meaning of Christmas

# Bible verse of the month

“The Word became  
flesh and blood and  
moved into our  
neighbourhood ...  
Generous inside and  
out, true from start  
to finish”

John 1:14  
The Message



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Our verse this month comes  
from Rosieta Burton for more  
information see page 29

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

**2015** has passed so quickly and now once again the season of Advent is upon us. Amidst the rush I hope you find time to reflect upon the Nativity story, look forward to Christmas and appreciate the hope and joy that it brings. Time spent lingering amidst the pages of this magazine can help you with that.

We look forward in this month's Good News to many of the events and celebrations that will happen in the Church this Christmas. The Carol Concert is always a favourite of mine as it really means Christmas is so very near.

We also rejoice at the response to our Shoe Box appeal bringing a gift of love to so many children. Danny has thoughts for all ages as he reflects on a recent youth work seminar on how we can 'follow the leader' and we all look forward to hearing the Gift FM back on the radio this Christmas.

We are once again challenged to guess who is responding to our 'Who am I' questions and in doing so to learn more about one another. And finally, Dorothy Brown has put pen to paper so do read her poem, quite a remarkable lady.

On behalf of our Good News Team we wish you a Happy Christmas and, as 2016 is ushered in, a Peaceful New Year.

God Bless us all this Christmas,

*Anne*

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# Dear friends

It is now a year since I knew that I was coming to be your minister, and about nine months since I moved to Lindfield and so am still experiencing many things for the first time and as a result sometimes am surprised by what I see or hear, and sometimes am mistaken in assumptions. The other day I sat in the balcony of the Dolphins swimming pool in Haywards Heath while my children were having a lesson. I briefly glanced towards a window where movement had caught my eye and realised I could see ripples of water outside. Oh, I thought to myself, I didn't realise they had an outside pool too, that must be chilly at this time of year. No sooner had this thought entered my mind when I realised that there was no pool there, it was a car park, the darkness of the outside world meant the window was acting a little like a mirror, I was seeing the reflection of the indoor pool my children were in.

Darkness and shadows often plays tricks on us, causing us to believe things which are not right. This is true not only with the darkness of night but the darkness of sin that the evil one brings. We might look out of the window at the world and see darkness; the darkness of the events in Paris, in Syria, the actions of Boko Haram in Nigeria, and the sinfulness of humanity in so many other places. It may seem that this darkness is enveloping the whole world, but it is not, and never will.

In fact there will be a day when there is no more darkness, suffering and pain, and instead light perpetual will shine.

As we wait for that day we should remember how our account in Genesis of the Serpent in Eden is of one who confuses and tricks the innocent couple, Adam and Eve, to fall. We are people who in our human frailty can be easily entranced and led astray, confused by the darkness of the world, but God does not leave us alone to stumble and trip. In the darkness of the earth, in a small village, in humble surroundings, a baby boy was born and laid in a manger. The child was like no other before or since, He is the Son of God, coming into the world as a gift of Love, enabling us through His passion to be forgiven of sin and receive new life. The light of His presence is something that shines and cannot be extinguished, in it we can have hope.

Let us approach Christmas, and the New Year, with a confidence that allows us to have true joy, not made by the material things that so many find an important part of Christmas, but have joy in the hope, love and life that came with the birth of our Lord Jesus.

With every blessing this Christmas

*Keith*

# Family News

Sadly we have to report two more deaths in our Church Family this month.

After a long and difficult period of illness, Alan Fowler died in hospital on November 9th. Alan was a well loved and respected member, who was faithful to his Lord and Saviour, and was very committed to every responsibility he undertook in the life of the Church. He will be missed by us all, but especially by Doreen and the Family.

For many years so much part of village life with the Grocery shop that he ran, Colin Tremaine's wife, Barbara, has also passed into glory.

So we uphold both of these families in thought and prayer, and offer them our love and sincere sympathy.

As Christmas approaches, please pray especially for those who have lost loved ones during this past year, and for any whose family situation has sadly changed. It is a difficult time when you find yourself with that empty place at the table on Christmas Day! May they find courage and strength to face the New Year, knowing that our Lord is walking alongside them.

Several folks from this fellowship have moved or are about to move home. (More details later.). We wish them all God's blessing as they adjust to their new situations.

I often hear comments that LURC is a very caring Church. Thank you all for the support and love that is so readily given to members of this Church Family. It is so much appreciated, not least by me.

On behalf of the Pastoral Team, may I wish you all the blessings this Christmas can bring, whatever your circumstances may be. As we approach 2016, I pray that we will know God's peace, and expectantly look forward to all that He has in store for us in the future.

**Fiona Tingley**

## *Tunes & Tea*

Grateful thanks to the performers at the above event and those who spontaneously became usherettes, tea makers, cake makers and money counters. It was greatly appreciated likewise Richard Walters who dealt with and managed the PA system.

The concert raised £263 of which £200 has been passed to St. Peter and St James with the balance going to the church to defray costs.

We had an enjoyable time and your support was greatly appreciated.

**Peter Swann**



# Family News

## *In Touch*

In October quite a large number of members met to watch the film "Theory of Everything", telling the story of Stephen Hawking and how he coped with Motor Neurone disease while following a very successful career studying his 'Theories of the origin of the Universe and the existence of Black Holes'.

We do not meet formally in December, as it is always such a busy month, so our next meeting will be on Tuesday January 26th when we will hold our Christmas and New Year meal in the Church.

This is always a very enjoyable evening and everyone is welcome to come.

Please watch for further details in the New Year. Thank you to those members who attended the evening when Bridget Pepper described her work at Great Ormond Street Hospital and how her fund raising supports research into cancer and blood disorders in children.

Our collection raised over £92. Next time this report is written it will be 2016!! Meanwhile have a very enjoyable Christmas and may we all look forward to a happy and peaceful New Year.

**Janet Wade**

## *Thank You*

I would like to thank my House Group and the Church family for their prayers and good wishes when I had my recent cataract operations; also for the flowers when I was not feeling too good.

Colin and I wish you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

**Valerie Laine**

## *Shoebox Appeal*



Thank you Lindfield URC for your wonderful response to the Christmas Child Shoe Box appeal.

We had a fantastic 155 shoe boxes in the 'box-mountain' and were happily helped by our younger members to bring you this photo.

Thank you to our friends at Evangelical Free Church for your contribution.

Best wishes from  
**Jill & Brian O'Mant**

# Christmas Post

## *Post early for Christmas!*

**A**t the beginning of December a giant red, fluffy post-box will appear on the concourse.

This is for church members and regular worshippers to post Christmas cards to other friends in the church. We hope that you will use this facility as stamps are expensive nowadays. We just ask that you give a donation instead, and this money will go to local charities.



The latest posting date will be **Friday, 18th December**, and we will have the cards sorted for collection on Sunday, 20th December.

## *Tips for successful delivery*

- Please put the full surname of the person you are sending to as we have several Jennys, Janets, Davids etc!
- Please put the full first line of the address in case we have to deliver some by hand.
- Please put your cards into alphabetical order and use an elastic band as it considerably cuts down the collating time.
- Please confine addresses to the Lindfield and Haywards Heath areas.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation and let us be the first to wish you all a very 'Happy Christmas'!

**The Post Box Team**

# Christmas Events

We have a number of events planned for December as we look forward to Christmas.

So that you don't miss out on anything that you would like to attend, the details are as follows:

## *Thursday 17th December 7.30 pm*

A Traditional Christmas Concert hosted by Peter Swann and the Copthorne Silver Band. This is always well attended, and deservedly so. Make sure that you take your seats in plenty of time!

## *Sunday 20th December 6.30 pm*

Carols by Candlelight in the Church. An opportunity to sing traditional and contemporary Christmas Carols and songs. A service to welcome Christmas week.

## *Thursday 24th December 4.00 pm*

Crib Service. A special opportunity for the younger ones and their parents, but, of course, very much open to all. A great way to spend Christmas Eve afternoon, getting ready for the King.

## *Christmas Day 10.00 am*

Family Service to welcome our Lord. What better way to start the day!

## *Sunday 27th December 10.30 am*

This will be the only service for the day.

## *The Gift FM*

From 13th December up to, and including Christmas Day, The Gift FM will be broadcasting. The three Churches in Lindfield using the radio to celebrate the joy, the hope, the story and the meaning of Christmas. A unique opportunity to reach a wider audience through this medium. The Gift FM will be broadcasting on 87.9 FM and can also be heard on [www.thegiftfm.com](http://www.thegiftfm.com). It is well worth tuning in!

We look forward to having you with us for some or all of the events to celebrate this very special time of year. As always, you will be very welcome.

**John Merrett**  
Elder



**LINDFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

**HIGH STREET, LINDFIELD**



# **A TRADITIONAL CAROL CONCERT**



**LOTS OF CAROLS, A BRASS BAND AND A CHOIR  
PRESENTED BY**



**COPTHORNE SILVER BAND  
(Musical Director Brian Cox)  
LINDFIELD URC SINGERS**



**GUEST ARTISTS**



**ON**

**THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**  
**@7-30**

**ADMISSION FREE – MINCE PIES AND COFFEE / TEA**

**DONATIONS IN AID OF St Peter and St James Hospice and other  
local Charities.**

***ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE FROM THE CHURCH***

# Nativity Play

*'Reserved for the angels'  
the pencilled note ran  
We smiled as we moved on, along  
The little girls enterered.  
all tinsel and wings  
To wait for their turn to go on*

*The 'tinies', all sheep, with black  
blobs on their nose  
all wondering what it's about  
They wave to their Mums  
sitting in the front row  
So innocent, never a doubt*

*Not much seems to change,  
as never it should  
The loveliest story, still told  
With Shepherds ,in dressing gowns,  
towels on their heads  
And Kings, with their crowns  
made of gold*

*Were you ever 'Mary' or 'Joseph'  
the leads  
Or angels or wise Men and such?  
To take part was everything,  
just to be there  
The clothes didn't matter too much.*

*So where would we be if we  
couldn't pretend  
to act out this glorious scene  
To think back in time, as we sit  
on small chairs  
recalling the days that have been.*

*Please God, we'll remember  
as life wends its way  
The childish expression of youth  
With light shining through  
all the stumbling words  
Revealing the inocent truth.*

**Dorothy Brown**



# Eldership

It seems a very short while ago that I had to prepare to say something about the reasons I felt able to offer myself for re-election to the Eldership Team, and yet it is that time again, where did those three years go?

What has changed for me in those three years? Well the Minister for a start. Charles was on his last year and then we had, of course, a period of Ministerial vacancy and back to having a Minister again.

They were three very different periods really, Charles was on the last lap of his Ministry and I had then known him in my role as Secretary and Elder for four years before then and got to know him well, and he was an easy guy to get alongside and a very encouraging man. Very able to see strengths and help considerably with weaknesses and I thank God for him and that period of time.

During the vacancy period was quite different and the Elders had to learn to pull together and again encourage each other, which they did very well I might add. The responsibilities are not small and are at times fraught, but keeping Christ-centered the team pulled well together and the gifts we all had seemed very much to gel together.

So now to the present time and possibly a further period of time to serve Him and yourselves, and what can I bring to you for the next three years.

I can only bring me as I am “warts and all” as they say. Without a shadow of doubt the Lord has moulded me into a stronger person and has been alongside when I have wobbled (which happens a bit). It seems He has equipped me with what is needed to fulfil the role of Elder in this place. I well enough know the areas that I find difficult but fortunately the Lord knows them too and sees me through them, and thanks to you and Him I have been encouraged to ask you again to have me on the Eldership team for a further period of time.

I feel very blessed to even be here, bearing in mind what had gone before in 2007 and onwards, and I have felt that He wanted me here for a reason, and perhaps to serve as an Elder in this place was His reason.

By the time you read this you will already have made your own minds up as to whether or not you wish me to remain as a serving Elder. Whatever decision you made I shall continue to serve you and the Lord in this place wherever I can.

So thank you to you all for your great and prayerful support, without Him, you and your prayers, I could not have offered myself again.

Every blessing

**Sue Waller**

# Home Groups

We are now in the season of Advent, a time set aside by 'the church' to prepare and make ourselves ready. Which, of course, begs the question: what or who are we making ready for and why and even how do we make ourselves ready? That is why in our home groups we are on this great Adventure into the Bible to try and answer together these questions; who are we preparing for, why are we preparing for Him and how do we prepare for Him?

These groups will be on 19th Nov, 3rd and 10th Dec. and everyone is welcome to come and join a group for these sessions as we prepare ourselves, our church and indeed our community for the return of Jesus Christ as King and Lord.

This highlights the reasons why we meet together in Home Groups. We come together to:

## *Study the Bible*

Kevin DeYoung wrote a book entitled - Taking God at His Word which he subtitled; why the Bible is worth knowing, trusting and loving.

He concluded his book by writing; ' let us not weaken in our commitment to our unbreakable Bible. Let us not wander from this divinely exhaled truth. Let us not waver in our delight and desire. God

has spoken, and through that revelation He still speaks. Ultimately we can believe the Bible because we believe in the power and wisdom and goodness and truthfulness of the God whose authority and veracity cannot be separated from the Bible. We trust the Bible because it is God's Bible. And God being God, we have every reason to take him at his word.'

We study the Bible primarily to spend time with our God and to know Him better. As we spend time with Him we learn more about Him, what His plans and purposes are for His world, His church and for us as individuals. We don't just get to know what God is doing but our lives are radically changed as we learn about God's will and way and adjust our living accordingly.

## *Spend time together*

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul says that the church is like a human body. It only grows and functions properly when every part is doing its bit. This means we have responsibilities towards each other as believers. In our Home Groups we are also learning to share our lives with others through encouragement, care, support, service and the use of our gifts. It also means that we are mutually dependent on each other to actively work to help each of us to grow to be more like Jesus.

## *We pray*

One of the main ways we support and serve one another is by praying, because it's through our prayers that God does His work. In our Home Groups therefore we set aside time to pray together for one another, our church and for the wider world.

Being part of a community can be a challenge (something the Bible is very realistic about!), however, it is where we grow best as Christians and as a church.

Our prayer is that through our Home Groups, together we can encourage one another as we: use our minds to engage our hearts and activate our wills to prepare ourselves, our church and our community to be as Christ would have us be, that is we will :

**“in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ”**

Ephesians 4:15

**Val Cookney**





# Wider World

## Bangladesh

There are 1.2 million Christians in Bangladesh but, with a population of over 160 million, they are very much in the minority and life is not easy for them.

The state religion is Islam and although the constitution provides for religious freedom the reality is very different. Any converts from Islam or Buddhism face strong pressure from family, friends and local religious leaders to recant their faith.

Christians have been forced out of business and there is discrimination against many children in schools. There are few churches, only simple house groups and many families lack the knowledge and confidence to explain their faith properly to their children.

Due to poverty, many children in Bangladesh experience illiteracy, malnutrition and insanitary living conditions, leading to poor health and stunted growth.

This is especially true for the children from Christian families who are often denied access to the few community facilities that do exist.

Because of the difficulties, some families prefer to send their children away to a Christian shelter home to provide better care for their physical needs while giving them the chance to grow in their Christian faith.

'Open Doors' supports this home in partnership with the Prime Evangelistic Church in Kewchala, Gazipur, providing food, clothes, books, utilities, teachers' pay and other related expenses. The home offers sanctuary to 36 children, aged six to fourteen and they receive a good education, nutritious food and spiritual training to develop their faith in Christ.

**Carol Marsh**



## 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. <small>Venue rotates between the three churches</small>

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 <small>(5-7 years)</small>
	6.30pm	Boys' Brigade - Junior Section <small>(8-11 years)</small>
	7.30pm	Boys' Brigade - Company Section <small>(11+ years)</small>
Tue	10.00am	Stepping Stones <small>(Parents and toddlers - term time)</small>
	7.45pm	In Touch <small>(4th Tues) for women of all ages</small>
Wed	2.30pm	The Fellowship <small>(4th Wed) for men and women of all ages</small>
Thur	10.00am	Pop-In <small>Coffee and a chat</small>
	8.00pm	Church Meeting <small>(2nd Thur)</small>
Fri	5:00pm	P.U.L.S.E Junior <small>(1st and 3rd week, term time)</small>
	7.30pm	P.U.L.S.E <small>(Years 6-9) games, craft, tuck and a bible message (term time)</small>
Sun	7.30pm	P.U.L.S.E +

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

# 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.

# December Church diary

2nd Wednesday	12:30pm	Christmas Lunch Fellowship	13th Sunday	7:00am	Gift FM starts on 87.9 fm
3rd Thursday		House Groups		9:30am	Family Worship
				11:15am	Morning Worship Rev Keith Morrison
				6:30pm	Communion Rev Keith Morrison
5th Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints	17th Thursday	7:30pm	Traditional Christmas Concert
6th Sunday	9:30am	Family Service	19th Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, Evan Free
	11:15am	Morning Worship Rev Keith Morrison			
	6:30pm	Evening Worship Rev Keith Morrison	20th Sunday	9:30am	Family Worship
8th Tuesday	6:00pm ~8:00pm	Village Night		11:15am	Morning Worship Rev Keith Morrison
				6:30pm	Carols by Candlelight
10th Thursday		House Groups	24th Thursday	Christmas Eve 4:00pm	Crib Service
			25th Friday	Christmas Day 10:00am	Christmas Day Celebration Rev Keith Morrison
12th Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints	27th Sunday	10:30am	Communion David Walters
					No evening service at URC

# January 2016

1st Friday	10:00am ~Noon	Church Open for Prayer	21st Thursday	House Groups
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**3rd**  
Sunday

10:30am	Family Worship Rev Keith Morrison
6:30pm	Evening Worship Rev Keith Morrison

23rd Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, URC
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6th  
Wednesday

12:30pm	Lunch Fellowship
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**24th**  
Sunday

9:30am	Communion
11:15am	Communion Rev Keith Morrison
6:30pm	Evening Worship Rev Keith Morrison

9th  
Saturday

8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, URC
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26th  
Tuesday

7:45pm	In Touch Meal in Meeting Room One
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**10th**  
Sunday

9:30am	Family Service
11:15am	Morning Worship Rev Keith Morrison
6:30pm	Communion Rev Keith Morrison

27th  
Wednesday

2:30pm	The Fellowship
7:45pm	Elders' Meeting

14th  
Thursday

8:00am	Church Meeting
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28th  
Thursday

**Council Elections**  
**No Pop In**  
8:00pm Church Prayer  
Meeting

16th  
Saturday

8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, URC
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30th  
Saturday

8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, URC
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**17th**  
Sunday

9:30am	Family Worship
11:15am	Morning Worship Rev Keith Morrison
6:30pm	Evening Worship Rev Keith Morrison

**31st**  
Sunday

9:30am	Family Worship
11:15am	Morning Worship Rev Keith Morrison
6:30pm	United Evening Worship, URC

# YOUTH

Hello

In November I attended Youthwork the Conference. The theme this year was 'Follow the Leader'.

I made some notes throughout the weekend and I want to share some of what I took away. I hope you get something from my notes!

“*The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve. If you want to lead, you will have to serve!*”

*Matthew 20:20-28*

In Matthew 20:20-28 we find the mother of Zebedee's sons asking Jesus for her two sons to be sat at the right and left hand of Jesus. She is asking for her sons to be great in the eyes of Jesus, but Jesus points out that His way of being great is not one that fits with the world view.



Jesus says that whoever wants to be great, must be a servant. Whoever wants to be first, must be a slave.

Jesus doesn't say it is wrong to be great or to be a leader but that the way to work it is to be a slave. There are four points to focus on to be a great leader.

- 1 *Jesus starts with the heart.*
- 2 *Jesus calls us to go small in a supersized everything world.*
- 3 *Jesus dreams of team.*
- 4 *Jesus calls us to go slow.*



## *Start with the heart*

If we want to change the world, we must start with our heart, our own secret motivation. James and John are aiming for the top jobs. They realise Jesus is about to make it big and they want the top jobs.

Jesus says if you want the top job you have to be willing to drink the cup I will drink; you have to be willing to suffer. There is always a sacrifice that comes through suffering – not from a title or position.

In suffering, in the odd bit of failure, we grow in authority. We must release our young people not just to succeed but also to fail. If we have set it up so they can't fail, then they won't learn. This is not to put them in danger or to be stupid but an opportunity to learn.

Robert M'Cheyne said "My people's greatest need is my personal holiness".

The young people's greatest need is not what we do with them but what we do without them. Building our own personal holiness.

## *He calls us small*

Not many of us choose the small, most of us want the big; but we must choose the small. Whatever our calling, we cannot be great from the start. We must begin with the little we have in front of us and God will make it grow. If we are faithful in the small that God has given us, then He will trust us with the big!

We must understand that we are small and it is God who is big.

Many times in the Bible we see those who are faithful with the small things, God trusts with the big things. David was a shepherd boy before God raised him up. Joseph continued to be faithful each step of his journey.

Jesus calls us to go small, and stay faithful.

# PAGES

*Contd...*

## *He dreams of team*

Jesus says serve one another, Paul says submit to one another. God Himself is relationship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God's strategy for changing the world is 12 people loving one another. That was the team Jesus chose!

We must avoid comparison within a team. There are only two possible outcomes: we think we are better than others and we put them down; or we put ourselves down as we think they are better.

We are different, we are called. we need one another. He calls us to work together.

Maybe what we are doing feels slow, small and hidden but the Bible says Jesus is more committed to our fruitfulness than we are, He knitted us together in our mother's womb, He has plans to prosper us, He will build His church, the gates of hell will not prevail. We can trust Him, we can seek Him, and we can withdraw with Him and He will make us fruitful.

If we want to be great leaders, then we must serve. Serve our families, our friends and our communities. Ultimately, we must serve Christ in all we do.

*Danny*

## *He goes slow*

Finally, Jesus calls us to go slow. He had three years to change the world and He still had time for picnics, parties and to go fishing! Most of us don't have that time. Jesus is kind of a big deal and yet he had space to live in the world.

We live in a manically driven world and Jesus calls us to go slow. Discipleship is slow, it's a long journey over months and years.

 <sup>87.9</sup>  
unwrap the meaning of Christmas

For more information, to get involved with the Gift fm or to contact the studio for a request or message :

[www.thegiftfm.com](http://www.thegiftfm.com)

Call the studio : 01444 487607

email : [studio@thegiftfm.com](mailto:studio@thegiftfm.com)

Facebook : [facebook/thegiftfm](https://facebook/thegiftfm)

Twitter : [@thegiftfm](https://twitter.com/thegiftfm)

# The Gift

## *Twelve days of Christmas*

From Sunday December 13th Lindfield United Reformed Church will have its very own Christmas radio station, broadcasting the message and meaning of Christmas on 87.9fm and online at thegiftfm.com. In collaboration with other churches in the village and local schools the Gift will train local teenagers to present and produce live shows as well as broadcasting Christmas services and concerts from the URC and All Saints Church.

From crèches to care homes the Gift fm unwraps the meaning of Christmas for all. We hope through the music, services, concerts, prayers and reflections the station will draw the entire village closer to the true story at the heart of Christmas.

The story not of all the gifts we will shop for this year; but of the one that we have already received.

**Dan McQuillin**



# Boys' Brigade

The annual Battalion Potted Sports competition for Junior Section Boys was shifted from a Saturday to a weeknight this year, a change justified by an increased number of participants.

Our slightly below strength team of three Boys did not get a trophy but thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The winning team, on their home ground, was the 2nd Burgess Hill.

There is one activity I have sought to promote as much as possible: expeditions. This activity for Company Section Boys can be exciting, adventurous, and character building, and leads on to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. We have in Terry Heyward the good fortune to have one of the best trainers in the county on our staff. Much training is required before Boys can be proficient, and we took the opportunity of the half term week to do some.

A group of boys walked from Horsted Keynes to Blackland Farm where they cooked meals and camped overnight, being instructed by Terry en route.

On Remembrance Day, a select contingent from all three sections worthily represented us at the village commemoration and service at the Parish Church. Keith gave the address to a packed congregation. One of these years, we will have a newly trained drum team to lead the parade back to King Edward Hall.

We are so grateful for the constant encouragement we receive from members of our congregation: please may we ask that they help us to grow numerically – we want our small Company to be a bigger one!

**Geoffrey Cocksedge**









## *O come to my heart, Lord Jesus.....*

So much of our Christmas preparations have been 'disinfected' to consist of warm fuzzy feelings. So it is not surprising that we forget that while Christmas celebrates the coming among us of a tiny baby as the Emmanuel, God-with-us, His coming was indeed a sign of contradiction. We understate the fact that Mary, who was heavily pregnant, and Joseph were turned away from the inn because there was no room.

We forget the slaughter of the Holy Innocents and that the infant Jesus was spared their fate only through the hurried flight into Egypt where the Holy Family lived in future hope for many years as what today we would call political refugees.

Yet this is the Christmas reality experienced today by the ever-growing number of migrants and refugees throughout the world. There is a humanitarian crisis on our doorstep. The stark reality is that 12 million Syrians have fled their homes because of conflict; half are children. 4 million are refugees. Children affected by the Syrian conflict are at risk of becoming ill, malnourished, abused, or exploited. Millions have been forced to quit school. More than 700,000 Syrian refugees and other migrants risked their lives this year to travel to Europe. It's a heartbreaking situation but the headlines scream at us: that most people in the UK don't want refugees coming here.

It may be difficult to believe, but rather than drawing us closer to God, sometimes Christmas actually draws us away! No wonder the little girl who was praying "forgive us our trespasses" got confused and said, "forgive us our Christmases."

Sometimes we need to be forgiven for our Christmases. We simply leave no room for Jesus.

Over the summer, our family was very fortunate to be able to attend a conference in Speyer, Germany, entitled “We are One”. During our last night our host Sabine, a social worker, who has befriended a number of asylum seekers, invited them to a barbeque at her home. It was fascinating listening to Malik, Ali, Tariq and Issak, four young men from Pakistan and Afghanistan, tell their story of hurried flight and future hope. All four had been in Germany for over two years, Ali nearly three. All four were still waiting for an interview – an interview which would determine their right to stay. All four were graduates, intelligent young men in their twenties. All had left their homeland because they had to – their life was threatened. Tariq had left a wife and two children and hadn’t seen them for over two years. As Issak said: we would not have left our families and our homes unless we had to. This is the Christmas reality: we are not one.

This encounter has left me wondering about the significance of ‘no room in the inn’ that first Christmas and for us in 2015. Perhaps one reason there was no room for Jesus was ignorance. After all, how could the innkeeper know the baby about to be born was the Son of God? Or perhaps the innkeeper was too busy what with everything else that was occupying his time.

The choices which we make as human beings often lead to disaster for ourselves or others. The Christmas story teaches us that the faithful love of God is always seeking better outcomes than human folly dictates.

Christmas is the time we celebrate Emmanuel, this God-with-us, who makes the promise of God's faithful love real amongst us. This promise stands in a world which gives us cause to grieve as well as to rejoice. It is no accident that the gospel writers are at pains to set the story of the infant Jesus in a world of power politics, fear and injustice.

It is only when we have the measure of such challenges to our lives (such as we did this summer in our encounter in Speyer) that we can truly celebrate the God who comes among us as a helpless child and, in doing so, reveal to the world that the faithful love of God is greater than anything else.

Russell, Cameron and Ross join me in wishing you the gladness of Christmas, which is hope, the spirit of Christmas, which is peace, and the heart of Christmas, which is love.



**Rev Nicola Furley-Smith**  
Synod Moderator

# Know Lindfield



## Questions

Where was this old picture taken?  
What happened to the Bricklayers Arms?

Answers in the next issue of Good News.

## Answer to the November photo:

This was the side view of Humphreys Bakers. The shop became a bakers in 1796, and was based on a 14th century farmhouse.



# Engine Room

During December our prayer focus will be on all the activities that take place in the lead up to Christmas, especially concentrating on the radio station GiftFM. Pray that in all we say and do that everyone will realise without CHRIST there is no (Christ) MAS.

We meet every Monday except the 28th December but there will not be the Thursday Prayer meeting on Christmas Eve. Meetings are as normal in January.

As we look back over the past year with all the problems both nationally and internationally, we can become concerned as we look towards the New Year.



I was reminded of the poem by Minnie Louise Haskins which was quoted by King George VI in his Christmas message in 1939.

*I said to the man who  
stood at the gate of the year,  
'Give me a light that I may tread  
safely into the unknown.'  
And he replied, 'Go into  
the darkness and put your  
hand into the hand of God.  
That shall be to you  
better than light and  
safer than a known way.'*

We have an opportunity to 'put our hand into the hand of God' on New Year's Day when the Church will be open from 10.00 am to 12 noon for people to spend time in prayer, as we prepare for the work God has planned for us to do in 2016.

**Carol Walters**

## ROC YOUR WORLD SOUTH-EAST CONFERENCE

2016



- Tiger Hall - All Saints Church -
- 122-122a High Street - Lindfield -
- Haywards Heath - RH16 2HS -

Saturday @ 10.00AM -  
30th January 4.00PM



**Guest Speaker**

**Debra Green OBE**

Cost £12 Including Lunch

To book : [rok.co.uk/RWYSouthEast](http://rok.co.uk/RWYSouthEast)

# Mission Update



## *November/December 2015*



As highlighted in the November edition of Good News, the mission focus for November and December is on the Worthing Churches Homeless Projects (WCHP). The charity helps people to get their lives back on track and regain their independence.

Being homeless is so much more than not having a roof over your head. As well as helping to provide shelter so people do not have to sleep out, WCHP can support people who are at risk of losing their homes or are in temporary accommodation so that they do not have to face homelessness. [www.wchp.org.uk](http://www.wchp.org.uk).

## *January/February 2016*



In January and February 2016 the mission focus will be on Operation Mobilisation (OM). OM works in over 110 countries, motivating and equipping people to share God's love with people all over the world. It seeks to help plant and strengthen churches, especially in areas of the world where Christ is least known.

OM KOSOVO - Directly following the war in 1999, OM began bringing love and hope to the broken land of Kosovo. OM currently serves in two of the largest cities, with outreaches to surrounding villages. We plan to continue with the support LURC gave to OM last year to a Family House in Peja, Kosovo where refuge and rehabilitation is available for those women, and their children, who are subjected to domestic violence and human trafficking. [www.om.org](http://www.om.org).



As always, if you would like to give please use the special envelopes and place your donation in the offertory at any Sunday Service, completing a Gift Aid form if appropriate.



Missions Day 1 November - Release International - Andrew Wilson of Release International joined us for our most recent Missions Day. He preached at the Morning Service and gave a talk following the Mission Hunger Lunch that day. It was a privilege as well as inspirational and humbling to hear about our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world. [www.releaseinternational.org](http://www.releaseinternational.org)

Thank you for your wonderful support of mission in so many ways, including prayer and finance. At the time of writing LURC has given a total of over £23,000 during 2015 .... and we are optimistic that the final figure for 2015 will exceed £26,000. THANK YOU!

For more details please see the mission display or contact one of the Missions Group team – Val Cookney, Jean Gardiner, Terry Oliver, Lesley Sparks and Alex Hall.

**Missions Group**

## Bible Verse

“*The Word became flesh and blood and moved into our neighbourhood ... Generous inside and out, true from start to finish*”

John 1:14 (paraphrase) The Message

The NIV text reads “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us..... full of grace and truth. (John 1:14a – NIV). The interpretation in the Message tells us that “The Word .....moved into our neighbourhood” I love this interpretation as it speaks to our contemporary situation and provides assurance that I have a generous, forgiving, loving and faithful God who guides my everyday life and that this same God is available to all of us right here, right now.

During this Advent Season I invite us all to think how we can share this Flesh and Blood with our neighbours. Make this our Christmas gift to those in our neighbourhood who do not yet know the WORD and have a blessed New Year. Remember He is true from start to finish.

May you experience a joyful Christmas and embrace the New Year with hope and testify to :

“*The Word became human and made His home among us.*”

John 1:14a - NLT

**Rosietta Burton**

# Who am I?

Here we meet for the first time (or is it the thousandth?) another URC character. See if you know who it is from just these answers.

If you can't guess, don't worry - ask around, it's a great excuse to get to know each other better over coffee.

All will be revealed in the February edition.

Where were you born?

*Northern Hemisphere, but I was too young to remember exactly where!*

What was your favourite subject at school?

*Arts and crafts, making things.*

What was your first Church?

*I have travelled so much I cannot recall which was the first Church I attended.*

What is your job?

*Working in distribution services.*

What's your favourite sport?

*The opportunities are a bit limited in England, but I just love all the sports of the winter Olympics - the combination of ice, snow and sport, GREAT!*

What is your favourite hymn/worship song?

*At this time of year I would have to choose a carol and why not "God rest ye merry Gentlemen", because it reminds us of the greatest gift of all, "Remember Christ our Saviour was born on Christmas Day", bringing us all Tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy", something the world needs now almost more than ever.*

Are you a half-full or half-empty sort of person?

*Definitely half-full - in fact more like full to the brim!*

What's your favourite food?

*I have a healthy appetite, some might say unhealthy, for mince pies!*

If you could go anywhere on holiday where would it be?

*I have been lucky to travel the world, but I don't get to spend long in the sunshine, so a Caribbean break would make a nice change.*

What makes you laugh?

*Seeing other people laughing and enjoying themselves.*

What would be your best round of questions in a pub quiz?!

*Probably geography.*

# Phonebook

## Keith Morrison (Minister)

Telephone 01444 484791  
Email kmorrison@lindfielddurc.org.uk

## Danny Goodall (Youth Pastor)

Youth Office 01444 487607  
Mobile 07443 438970  
Email dgoodall@lindfielddurc.org.uk

## Church Secretary

Sue Waller 01444 455047  
Email waller.s@sky.com

## Treasurer

Terry Ward 01444 482986

## Boys' Brigade:

Geoffrey Cocksedge 01444 474007

## 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

## Transport

Janet Drayton 01444 483621

## Lighthouse (Junior Church)

### Co-ordinator

Dawn Walters 01444 441601

## Flower Rota

### Arranging

### Distributing

#### December

6th	-	No distribution
13th	-	during December
20th	Christmas Flowers	Deliveries will
27th	Christmas Flowers	resume Jan 3rd

#### January 2016

3rd	Gladys Porter	Jo Bloxham
10th	Serena Nathan	Iris Bingham
17th	Lesley Sparks	Heather Swann
24th	Mary Comber	Fo Tingley
31st	Winifred Scopes	Nick Bingham

#### February

7th	Audrey Saunders	Liz Cantwell
14th	Heather Swann	Sue Tester
21st	Jessie Green	Jo Bloxham
28th	Janet Wade	Iris Bingham



the **Joy**  
the **Hope**  
the **Story**  
the **Meaning**  
the **Gift** fm 87.9

**Unwrap the Gift**  
**For twelve days of Christmas**  
**December 13th~25th**

The 3 Churches in Lindfield will be celebrating the joy, sharing the hope, telling the story and unwrapping the meaning of Christmas with our very own radio station the Gift fm **broadcasting on 87.9 fm** and online at **[www.thegiftfm.com](http://www.thegiftfm.com)**

Tune in for the sound track to your Christmas celebrations including live events, concerts, carols and services from Lindfield Schools & Churches

 **theGiftfm** <sup>87.9</sup>  
unwrap the meaning of Christmas