

GoodNEWS **MAGAZINE**

FREE MONTHLY

From Lindfield United Reformed Church

February 2016

Love is ...
Pancakes and Roses
Lent and Valentines

#LoveLindfield

Bible verse of the month

“Ah Sovereign
LORD, you have
made the heavens
and the earth by
your great power
and outstretched
arm. Nothing is
too hard for you.”

Jeremiah 2:17
NIV



Page 7



Page 8



Page 20

Our verse this month was
chosen by Rosieta Burton, see
page 24 for more information

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

Celebrating God's Love
on St. Valentine's Day



Page 26



Page 30

Editorial

We wish all our readers a very healthy, happy and blessed New Year.

Good News has advice from our Minister Keith, as to the things we could think about this year and try to put the words into practice, reminding us of the Vision Statement for our Church. I hope that we may take up his challenge so do read what this is all about.

There is a resume of Gift FM which Danny, our Youth Pastor talks about. Read how many young people were involved in this fantastic radio programme. In the same article you can read what is on offer for all ages of youngsters to keep them happy and well occupied.

The family news shows how it is good that we care about each other. Gladys Muir a long standing member of our Church shows how Little Compton and Compton House gives happiness to so many, do read her message. We hope you enjoy reading all the Good News we have to share with you.

God Bless you all, enjoy 2016 and make it one that is filled with Christian love.

Anne

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EDITOR

Anne Elvin
01444 456840

EDITORIAL TEAM

Martin Hall, Stuart Marsh

EDITORIAL OVERSIGHT

Val Cookney

PROOF-READING

Carol and Stuart Marsh

SETTING/DESIGN

Dan McQuillin

PRINTING

David Walters

*Contributions should be
emailed to
goodnews@lindfieldurc.org.uk
or hard copy placed in the
"GoodNEWS" pigeon hole at the
rear of the church*

*Please include your contact
details in case of query*

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Dear friends

Can it really be a year since I wrote to you about cardboard boxes, throwing away rubbish and the journey in Lent that I was about to undertake? In but a few days' time it will indeed be the anniversary of our move into Ryecroft, though I must confess there are a few boxes still being used in my study to contain old computer cables that I will never need and also books that didn't quite make it onto a shelf.

I have however found that there are places I no longer need the satnav to show me the route between, and I have experienced the seasons from wet muddy dog walks to rock hard paths and back to wet mud. In some ways Emmeline and I question has it really only been a year, we feel so at home and we are very thankful for the love you have shown to us, and to our children.

Having been in Lindfield for Easter, village day, the arts festival, bonfire night, Remembrance Sunday and the December village night, before the joy of Christmas (not to mention the Gift FM), I wonder what celebrations, traditions, or surprises I have yet to discover? But then I found myself staring at a new post box, "What's that doing here?" I asked myself, though it does make sense it being positioned outside the new post office, and then realised the old small one next to the phone box had gone.

Perhaps even on the village High Street things will constantly change and develop.

Our home groups in Lent will encourage us to pray for change in the village and beyond; not for there to be new developments of housing, but for the growth of hearts and minds, and for the awakening of people around us, that they may encounter, or re-encounter, God. As a church in the centre of the village it would be great to hear of more and more people wanting God to be at the centre of their lives.

The bulbs in the garden may have been pushing up early through the winter months, but let us see a flowering of faith in our community this spring. May we pray for a revival of the Holy Spirit, which delights us with joy and fills our hearts with the love of our Lord. In our village, and the wider community where we live, let there be a colour and vibrancy of life that comes as a gift of God.

May the Lord bless you this month, and may you be a blessing to others.

Your minister

Keith

Family News

Sad News

Back in December, a very long time member of our Church Family, Roy Munday, died in the Princess Royal Hospital. Roy had been unwell for a considerable time, but especially during the past year. So a happy release for Roy but a sadness for his family, and we send them our love and sincere sympathy. Please uphold them in your prayers.

Always appreciative for the support and kindness he received from folk in the Church, he had enjoyed the Lunch Fellowship over many years, and he attended the 11.15 service whenever he was able.

He will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

In Touch

We look forward to meeting with everyone again on the 23rd February when we hope to show a film about some aspects of Lent.

Please look at the notice board and the Sunday notice sheet nearer the time for further details. We will start the evening as usual with tea or coffee at 7.45 and everyone is welcome to join us. It would be good to see some new faces as well as the regular ones.

Janet Wade

The Fellowship

In February we meet on 24th February at 12.30pm. We will be entertained by our good friend Barry Turnwell.

There will be the usual Bring and Buy Stall and, at the end of the meeting, a cup of tea and time for a chat.

A warm welcome awaits all who come.

Pat Phillips

Thank You

Doreen Fowler and her family would like to thank our friends at Lindfield United Reformed Church for all the prayers, help and support over the past month's during Alan's illness.

We also appreciated those who were able to come and join in with the Service of Thanksgiving on December 1st 2015 in the Church.

This continues to be a difficult time for us all, the love that we have been shown continues to be a great comfort.

Family News

Healing Service

Rev. Peter McIntosh will be leading a Healing Service at Haywards Heath Methodist Church on Sunday 7th February, at 4.30pm.

All are welcome.

Apology

Apologies from the GoodNEWS team to Val Lane.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that Val Lane's article in the Winter Good News Magazine had her name spelt incorrectly.

I hope all her friends possibly may have realised that there was a mistake in the spelling of her name. It was written as Valerie Laine, her good wishes and thanks were of course from Val Lane.

I would like to apologise unreservedly to Val for the mistake! I hope it did not confuse or upset any of her friends.

Anne Elvin

Greetings from Australia

We have a message from **Fiona Flett** via Raymond and Rosemary Tijou.

I often think back to the happy times at Lindfield URC. Please send all my love to those who may remember me.

Fiona says she is now living in Banbury near Perth Western Australia and is in contact with Bill and Iris Green in Perth quite often, which is lovely.

We also have a message from **Hilary Greatwood** and her family.

Bobbie, Hilary's daughter says that Hilary is still doing O.K. although she had a fall earlier in 2015. She had a replacement hip but sadly has not walked again since her operation. She needs a wheelchair and assistance with just about everything that needs to be done to give her a happy life. She is still involved in various activities in her care home.

Sadly she has little contact with anyone in the UK as her memory 'is just about gone', so sad. Hilary would like to send her love and greetings to all her friends in Lindfield URC.

Occasionally a memory will surface and we try to keep them alive. Bobbie does say 'Thank you to all friends' for the love and support given to Hilary over the years.

Shoe Boxes

Hello everyone - an update on the Operation Christmas Child shoe box appeal.

The UK sent out 895,000 boxes and globally 11.2 million. What an awesome response! At Lindfield URC and Evan Free we sent 155 for which we thank you again.

I understand that dedicated volunteers prayed over EVERY box before it was sent to various parts of the world. This year many were sent to refugees. The prayer partner and co-ordinator in Montenegro told of the children's joy and fun with a humble frisbee.

Remember you can "track" your box online from February onwards - please log onto the Samaritan's Purse website. (This information is only if you donated online and have the barcode)

Thank you once more for your love and contributions to this great cause. More from us in September!!

Blessings from
Jill and Brian O'Mant



Looking Ahead

For the Church's Annual Meeting in November, I wanted to try and look ahead, though I found that if you are looking into the distance it is best to start with both feet on 'terra firma'. My looking ahead therefore came round a number of times to the need of the church to consolidate its position.

We have a vision statement, it is displayed in two separate places within our church, and on the website, but do we actually put into practice what it says?

Do we even remember what it says?

Our Vision.....

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

We are committed to:

- Encountering God through daily praise, prayer and bible reading
- Encouraging one another to discover and fulfil God's plan for our lives.
- Demonstrating God's love by meeting physical and spiritual needs, local and worldwide.

I am asked, sometimes, about our church name, Lindfield United Reformed Church, what does it mean? This is something that we need to explore, however through reflecting on Romans 1 I came to see that we are to become known not for the name, building, fancy logo, or location but because of our faith. We therefore need to seek ways our faith can grow and the vision statement rightly points us to have a daily relationship with God. If you have fallen out of practice of daily prayer then a good time to return is in the time of Lent, I do hope you will be able to join in with the weekly house groups over this special period in the church year; the book we are planning to use "Catching the wave" has a daily prayer guide for the 40 days.

We will additionally have a week in Lent where we use (and deliberately lose – by giving away) copies of the "Try Praying" booklet, which you may already have seen available in the Church Lounge.

Danny and I are trying to encourage the LEDs to develop their thinking about what has been said in the sermon. We therefore sometimes prepare a few brief questions to prompt them and encourage their note taking. We will make the blank question sheet available after the service for others who may wish to reflect later in the week, though the first time we advertised the availability of the sheet the take up was very low – perhaps you all already take sermon notes, if so how may we help you?

It is clear that a number of groups in the church wish to recruit new people to their teams, a fresh way of advertising what opportunities of serving are in the church needs to be found, this is something the elders will be thinking on. Is it a handout of "things to do", a "hot jobs" notice board, a "recruitment fair" or something else? We will have to explore what we think is right.

One of the things that has struck me in the past year is how great our High Street location is, we need to use this to a greater advantage on the many days that the village has special events. On bonfire night this year we not only distributed hot chocolate but this year glow in the dark wrist bands which said, "Jesus – the light of the world", as village day comes, and then the arts festival, we need to be proclaiming something more, and participating in a way that is more than the tea tent and letting others into the building; we need to proclaim the gospel. Danny and I have already started to think of some ideas and will be using the tag #LoveLindfield as we engage in the community.

There are many opportunities for telling the story of Christ, but I fear we also let many pass by. We need to be proactive. Telling all why we worship God and why we meet here. It is because of His love for the world, our forgiveness and our great hope.

Keith Morrison

Valentines Day

“*As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.*”

John 15:9 NIV

As we approach St Valentine's Day it is good to know that 'Love is still in the air'. This Valentines day we would like to share three 'love stories' of how couples came to meet :

Harry & Rosemary McCleery

When I was asked to write about romance I had to look it up in the dictionary to see what it meant. Romance is defined by my wife, Rosemary, developing a glazed romantic look that says I am going to cuddle you, rapidly followed by me running away, whilst she pinches my bottom!

Seriously though, we were introduced by a mutual Christian friend who enjoyed Cero dancing at Clair Hall. When our friend tried to point me out to Rosemary she couldn't see me, as I was too small to see in a crowd, thus dispelling the tall, dark and handsome vision in an instant. We both met after very dark periods in our lives. My previous wife had asked for a divorce after having a long term affair with another man, and Rosemary's husband had died at a very young age. I had prayed that God would give me a wife and a child, if it was His will to do so. I also pledged that I would remain celibate and single if that was His desire. I laid my life at His feet.

God's plan was abundance - Rosemary and I met and fell in love and we married 18 months later. I adopted Peter and Lydia - now 19 and 14 - and my life is blessed in every way. We had baby Esther 18 months after we married. A friend had told Rosemary to give up looking for a Christian husband as she would never find one. She never gave up even though the husband was too small to find! We always have time together each day. Its called 'special time' when I have my feet massaged. That's marriage magic for me. We also make sure we have time together every week. That's called, 'marriage time'.

The marriage vows you make when you are 20 will be tested by fire throughout your life. The love Rosemary and I have for each other is kindled and ignited by our love for Christ, in this life and in the world to come. Happy Valentines day to you all!

Love

Harry and Rosemary XX



Carol & Stuart Marsh

Stuart and I actually met when we were both seven years old as we attended the same Primary School in Sanderstead, Surrey. In fact we were in the same class, but didn't know each other that well because there were fifty (yes, 50!) of us altogether.

We went our separate ways when we went off to different Grammar schools, although we attended the same Congregational church.

I joined a different Youth Club when I was sixteen because I thought the boys were so juvenile (yes, Stuart among them!). Later I came to my senses, rejoined the church and older section of the Youth Club called the Over Eighteens, met up with Stuart again and the rest, as they say, is history!

Carol & Stuart

David & Anne Elvin

David and I go back quite a long way to our teenage years when life was just full of joy. At our Union Church we held a Youth Club every Saturday Evening. This was a good draw to the friends who attended our Church, together with many of their friends. This is the first time I met David. He started to attend our Church services and from there we began a friendship which blossomed, after a few ups and downs, into us becoming a serious friendship.

We were married at our Union Church Stretford with so many of our friends attending. My now Brother in law, who married my sister Betty, also attended the same Church along with his family. Marjorie Mulligan, Brian's Sister encouraged me to join our United Reformed Church here in Lindfield. Marjorie was to be Betty's Sister-in-law. I feel sure that we were all guided well.

We had a very blessed marriage with two wonderful daughters. Give and take was needed but we managed things well. Excepting for seventeen days, we enjoyed nearly fifty five years of marriage. Love's sweet dream carried us through everything, which I am most grateful for. Many very happy Memories of our interesting lives spent together.

Anne

St Hildegard of Bingen



One of the benefits of travelling without a guide book is the pleasure of encountering something that is entirely unexpected.

Last November Helen and I visited Frankfurt, Germany, for a long weekend, to join a friend and their family for a 50th Birthday. Over the weekend we had a couple of trips out with them to see something of the countryside.

As the sun was setting on the Sunday we found ourselves at the Benedictine Abbey of St Hildegard, built between 1900 and 1904 to replace two previous Abbeys which were founded by St Hildegard in the 12th Century.

The 'new' buildings are set above the town of Rudesheim am Rhein, surrounded by vineyards overlooking the River Rhine.

The Abbey is named after Hildegard von Bingen, also known as Sibyl of the Rhine, one of the most important women in mediaeval Germany. Her theological, philosophical, musical and scientific works were evidence of a powerful visionary mind. She wanted to refocus people on God and communicate faith as a liberating message of love and responsibility for the world. It seems to me that she was ahead of her times, perhaps timeless – her vision for how our relationship with God should be would certainly fit well in current times. One of the aims of the present Abbey is to preserve and pass on St Hildegard's remarkable legacy and to research her life and works.

There are more than 50 sisters in the Abbey who live a Benedictine life very much like the Abbey's namesake, dominated by shared singing and work, spiritual reading and contemplation as well as a communal life and hospitality. As I write this I am listening to some lovely Gregorian chant music entitled "Voice of the living light" attributed to St Hildegard (easily found on YouTube). More than 70 of her musical texts survive, one of the largest repertoires among medieval composers.

In addition to her theological and musical works, she wrote many science texts and is considered the founder of scientific natural history in Germany. We visited another Monastery on the Monday with a herb garden ordered according to Hildegard's hypotheses of the healing effects of plants on the body – she viewed healing of the body as a holistic process.



On 17th September 1179, when Hildegard died, her sisters claimed they saw two streams of light appear in the skies and cross over the room where she was dying. Pope Benedict XVI named St Hildegard a Doctor of the Church on 7th October 2012, just the fourth woman of 35 saints given that title by the Roman Catholic Church. Pope Benedict called her "perennially relevant" and "an authentic teacher of theology and a profound scholar of natural science and music.". Hildegard von Bingen also appears in the calendar of saints of the Church of England, in which she is commemorated on 17th September. It was wonderful to come across her inspirational story by chance!



Herbs selected by St Hildegard for stimulating the immune system:



Statue of St Hildegard in the gardens around the Abbey:

Christmas

With new friends at Little Compton and Compton

This year I spent my Christmas Day away from my family. I would like to share with you my experience, as it was my own choice to spend Christmas without them. I considered that they would have to spend precious time driving in heavy traffic, with all sorts of hold ups, as they live far away from me.

We had a delightful family celebration the week before Christmas, and I speak to them every day on my telephone, which I look forward to.

I spent my Christmas Day in my home at Little Compton Care Home, where I joined the residents of Compton House to have the Christmas Day meal. I also shared the good company of three lovely ladies and we kept up a lively conversation while enjoying a most delicious meal. The nurses and helpers were their usual smiling cheerful selves, who made it a very 'Happy Day'.

It was as though we were in a high class hotel in such a lovely dining room. We were made to feel very special. It was so good to see a young man helping an elderly gentleman, who needed help in feeding himself, together with many other small ways, which we all take for granted.



Apparently Tom was one of the many trainee helpers. It was heartwarming to see that he was willing to give up his Christmas Day to help others.

I immediately thought of the other type of young person who inhabit our streets and gain publicity by all their misdeeds. I thank God that there are still some youngsters who are prepared to help those who cannot help themselves.

This is sent with my love and together with every good wish for a Happy Healthy and Successful New Year.

Gladys Muir

Recipe for *a Happy New Year*

Take twelve whole months,
Clean them thoroughly of all bitterness, haste and jealousy.
Make them just as fresh and clean as possible.

Now cut each month into twenty-eight, thirty or thirty-one different parts,
But don't make up the whole batch at once.
Prepare it one day at a time out of these ingredients.

Mix well into each day one part faith, one part patience,
One part courage and one part work.
Add to each day one part of hope, faithfulness, generosity and kindness.
Blend with one part prayer, one part meditation, and one good deed.
Season the whole with a dash of good spirits,
A sprinkle of fun, a pinch of play, and a cupful of good humour.

Pour all of this into a vessel of love.
Cook thoroughly over radiant joy, garnish with a smile,
And serve with quietness, unselfishness, and cheerfulness.
You're bound to have a happy new year!

Author unknown



Overflowing

with thankfulness.....

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

Colossians 2:6-7 NIV

This verse really impacted me as I read my morning reading on the 14th November. At the time I was confined to the house with a deep vein thrombosis in my leg. Both legs felt like blocks of wood and wouldn't move of their own accord. My swollen foot would hardly take a slipper and Ray had to help me with the simplest of tasks that we do each day and just take for granted. What is there to be thankful for in that I hear you ask?

I discovered I had so much for which to thank God. Each day things were slowly improving and a few days later I could get my shoes on and hobble around the house on a stick instead of crutches. In the beginning it was such a shock to not be able to walk that I thought I would be in this state for the rest of my life, and really wondered if I would end up in a care home! But God has been good in answer to the prayers of a number of people in the church, for which I thank you.

Each day seems a little better than the day before. As time went on I managed to make a Christmas cake and write the cards to go out in the post, but just hadn't felt well enough to do before.

I even managed to hobble out into the garden on my stick and lift my geraniums and put them under cover. That night we had the first white frost of the winter when they would have been wiped out in one night!

In February I had a fall on my face which jarred my front teeth and also resulted in having a total knee replacement in April. By August I had an abscess in my gum resulting from the fall. After root canal treatment and three lots of antibiotics to no avail, I was sent to see a specialist in Worthing towards the end of November for an episectomy. The specialist told me the only way to be rid of the infection 100% was to have the tooth out! This was done on the 1st December and by the next day I began to feel better as the infection drained away. The song "All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth" was very true for me this year! Again, thank you to all those who prayed for me.

God is good, and I have so many things for which to thank and praise Him.

Rosemary Tijou

Sunday Services

The **9.30am** service is an opportunity for all age groups to join in a relaxed informal time. Most weeks, children leave after 20 minutes for their own activities (including crèche). Lighthouse (Junior church) is for children and young people up to age 14. Holy Communion (4th Sunday)

Coffee is served between the morning services.

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

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

Holy Communion (2nd Sunday)

Personal prayer is available after every service. We can also offer personal prayer ministry at home or in hospital.

We do not take up an offering during the services, those wishing to give are invited to place a gift in one of the bowls at the doors before or after the service.

Recordings of services can be borrowed free from the church.

Prayer Meetings

Mon	9.30am	An Hour of Prayer
Thur	8.00pm	Church Prayer Evening 'Engine Room' (4th Thursday)
Sat	8.45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting. Venue rotates between the three churches

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

Regular Activities

Mon	10.00am	Art Group
	6.00pm	Boys' Brigade - Anchor Boys (5-7 years)
	6.30pm	Boys' Brigade - Junior Section (8-11 years)
	7.30pm	Boys' Brigade - Company Section (11+ years)
Tue	10.00am	Stepping Stones (Parents and toddlers - term time)
	7.45pm	In Touch (4th Tues) for women of all ages
Wed	2.30pm	The Fellowship (4th Wed) for men and women of all ages
Thur	10.00am	Pop-In Coffee and a chat
	8.00pm	Church Meeting (2nd Thur)
Fri	5:00pm	P.U.L.S.E Junior (1st and 3rd week, term time)
	7.30pm	P.U.L.S.E (Years 6-9) games, craft, tuck and a bible message (term time)
Sun	7.30pm	P.U.L.S.E +

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

February Church diary

3rd Wednesday	12:30pm	Lunch Fellowship	20th Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, Evan Free
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4th Thursday		House Groups	21st Sunday	9:30am	Family Worship
				11:15am	Morning Worship Dan McQuillin
				6:30pm	Evening Worship David Walters
6th Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, Evan Free			

7th Sunday	9:30am	Family Service	23rd Tuesday	7:45pm	In Touch
	11:15am	Morning Worship Rev Keith Morrison			
	6:30pm	Evening Worship Rev Keith Morrison	24th Wednesday	2:30pm 7:45pm	The Fellowship Elders' Meeting

11th Thursday		Lent Groups Week 1	25th Thursday	8:00pm	Church Prayer Meeting
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14th Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, Evan Free	27th Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, Evan Free
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14th Sunday	9:30am	Family Worship	28th Sunday	9:30am	Communion
	11:15am	Morning Worship Rev Keith Morrison		11:15am	Communion Mike Wheate (OM)
	6:30pm	Communion Rev Keith Morrison		6:30pm	Evening Worship Rev Keith Morrison

18th Thursday		Lent Groups Week 2			
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YOUTH

I want to begin by thanking you all for your prayers for Gift FM. And thank you to all those who got involved, shared testimonies and even interacted with texts or tweets! Over the 13 days, youth and leaders from many different churches came into the studio to produce and present a show. It gave the event an amazing community feel and brought a variety of different ideas to the shows.

The Gift FM gave many people the opportunity to try something they had never done before and learn new skills. Some were shy and nervous at the beginning, but became confident as the days went on!

The days flew by and Gift FM finished on Christmas Day with many great memories. I look forward to being able to be a part of it again!





Since then, all groups have now begun again, and have all started well.

Boys' Brigade is in full swing with Anchors, Juniors and Company Section meeting back on January 4th. There is space for more boys in all sections so do get in touch if you know someone between the ages of 5 and 18 who would be interested!

The evening often includes games, marching, drumming bible teaching and much more!

Christian Unions in Oathall and Warden Park Secondary Schools have also begun. This term we are learning about people Jesus met, as well as looking at big questions such as 'Why is there suffering in the world?'

It is great to have the opportunity to enter the schools and teach pupils about Christ and support the pupils through their school days.

Pulse Jr. is now running every Friday from 5pm – 6.30pm. Pulse Jr. is for anyone aged 7 to 11. The evening includes games, craft, bible teaching and dinner! This term we are looking at Joseph and how God provided for him throughout his life.

Pulse follows Pulse Jr. on a Friday evening running from 7.30pm to 9pm. Pulse is for anyone aged 11 to 18. We have a varied programme that includes club nights, socials such as bowling, swimming and laser quest, prayer evenings and film nights!

I am excited about what God has planned for this year! Thank you for all your prayers and support!

Danny

PAGES

Mission Giving

January/February 2016

Operation Mobilisation

House of Joy – Peja, Kosovo

Operation Mobilisation (OM) which seeks to help plant and strengthen churches, especially in areas of the world where Christ is least known, has been active in Kosovo since the end of the war in 1999. OM currently serves in two of the largest cities, with outreaches to surrounding villages. Lindfield URC Mission Giving in 2015 went to support a Family House in Peja, Kosovo (now known as the House of Joy) where refuge and rehabilitation is available for those women, and their children, subject to domestic violence and human trafficking. Mission Giving in January and February this year will enable us to continue this support.

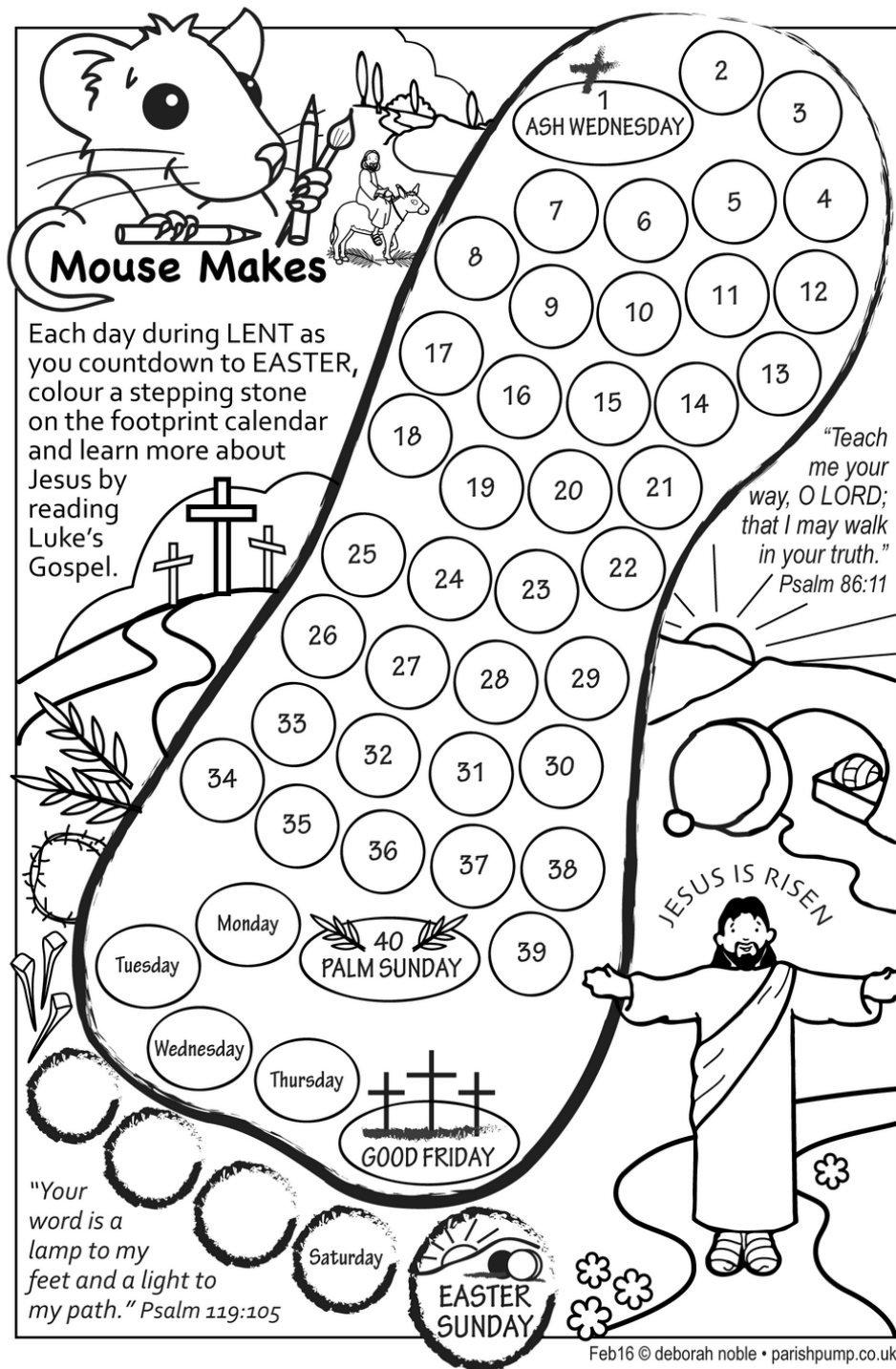
The house functions as a stable place for women to begin a long-term process of social reintegration after they have left government emergency shelters, or to provide support, training and counselling to those who are still able to live at home. The programme works with each woman individually to develop a unique three-year plan in order for her to achieve social, psychological, and financial stability. The house has the capacity to serve 30 women, including accommodation for 5 women and their children who can stay at the house for up to 3 years.

Since last year:

- *The work has been extended to cover outreach to families still in their own homes and also to vulnerable teenagers*
- *The training given to the women, to enable them to live independent lives, has been extended to include bag-making*
- *A vocational skills training program for youth has been started which provides sewing and electrical training to roughly forty potential school dropouts. The goal is that, through this, more families at risk would be met and their needs addressed more holistically.*

Donated funds go towards: basic household needs; paying local caregivers, programme administrators, sewing trainers, teachers and psychologists and providing for other unique needs of participants.

The Information available, at the Mission Board, includes a report prepared for this Church with more information. On Sunday 28th February, Mike Wheate of OM partner development will be coming to preach at both morning services and give an update on the work OM are doing in Kosovo.



“Ah Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you”

Jeremiah 32:17 NIV

During the course of any one day I find myself repeating/often singing; Ah Lord God you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm

Nothing is too difficult for you. The words bring back memories of living and working in various countries; often in conditions one does not always associate with the kind of place and or activity in which one is engaged.

While in the Caribbean this passage was often the verse that put a spring in my step as I walked from one village to another through the sunshine or the rain. Looking out of the window from house or church I could see the beautiful blue sea on one side and the mountain on the other, both reminding me of the wonders and glories of God.

Nothing seemed too difficult for Him who created such beauty; therefore He would and indeed did make it possible for me to deal with whatever came my way.

I would often be rewarded with the voice of the 100 year old with the beautiful bass voice who knew every hymn in the book by heart. The opportunity to speak with folks of their faith as they made preparation for going on Christian Witness to North Korea reminded me that nothing is too difficult for God.

The experience of the power of God's hand on those who challenge and subsequently become believers proves that nothing is too hard for God. Among the verdant green, the clear blue skies or the nuances of Lindfield I can still sing of the great God whose stretched arm brought all things that nothing is too hard if you believe in His power.

Rosietta Burton

The Bible the word of God.

When quiet in my house I sit,
Thy Book be my companion still,
My joy Thy sayings to repeat,
Talk o'er the records of Thy will,
And search the oracles divine,
Till every heartfelt word be mine.

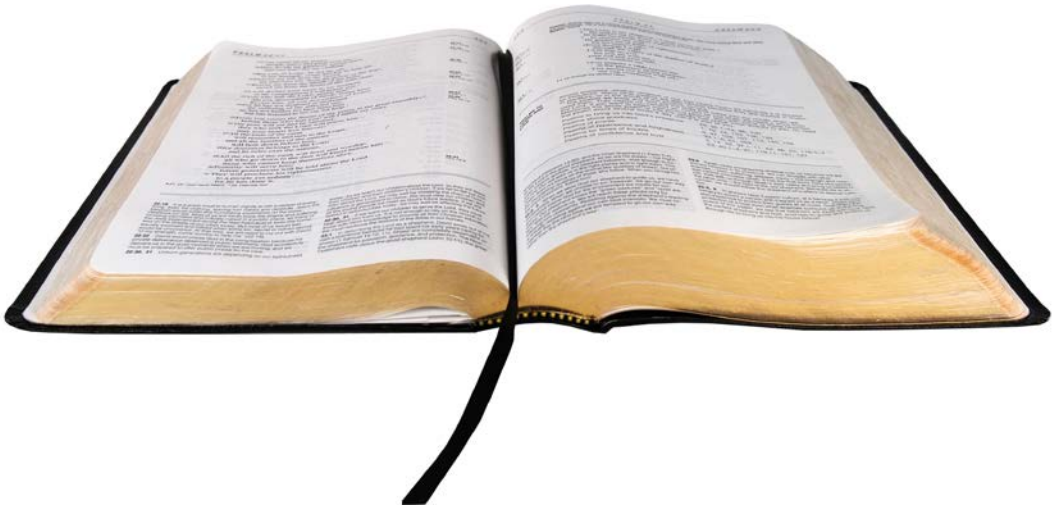
O may the gracious words divine
Subject of all my converse be!
So will the Lord His follower join,
And walk and talk Himself with me;
So shall my heart His presence prove,
And burn with everlasting love.

Oft as I lay me down to rest,
O may the reconciling Word
Sweetly compose my weary breast!
While, on the bosom of my Lord,
I sink in blissful dreams away,
And visions of eternal day.

Rising to sing My Saviour's praise,
Thee may I publish all day long;
And let Thy precious word of grace
Flow from my heart, and fill my tongue
Fill all my life with purest love,
And join me to the Church above

Charles Wesley
1707 – 1788

A well wisher



Love Is...

As Valentine's day comes upon us again, I begin to think of what I could do with Dan to celebrate our love for each other. But in my research for something to do or give, I am discovering that it just seems like an opportunity for business to market specific goods for over inflated prices. It struck me that while Christians have long bemoaned the commercialization and secularization of Christmas and Easter, we haven't had as much of an outcry against the world hijacking Valentine's Day.

I think this is probably because many of us haven't really seen it as a Christian holiday. But it really is. St. Valentine (or Valentinus) was a priest and physician in third-century Rome. According to church tradition, Valentine was known for doing good deeds, caring for the poor, healing the sick. He was arrested during a persecution of Christians, and the Roman emperor Claudius Gothicus handed him over to a magistrate.



While in custody, Valentine healed the magistrate's blind, adopted daughter, and the entire family was converted to Christianity. Upon hearing this, the emperor had Valentine beheaded...

On... February 14th.

From then on, Christians have commemorated this day in memory of Valentine's life of selfless service and ministry. It's not all about romantic love between couples. Rather, the emphasis is on love your neighbour, not romantic love. The romantic emphasis didn't come until the Middle Ages, and then of course it was heightened by 18th-century Romanticism and now exacerbated by modern Hollywood mythology and Western consumer culture.

In Christian tradition, romantic love is not the highest love.

“*Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.*”

John 15: 13 NIV

For much of church history, love for our neighbours was acknowledged as the highest form of Christian service. And actually, romantic love was viewed suspiciously because it tended to be overly emotive, irrational and could create an idolatry of the love interest.

So while we certainly should love and honour our spouses and significant others on Valentine's Day, we should only see this as one particular expression of the greater love that is love of our neighbour.

So as I wonder this, I go back to thinking about our plans to celebrate this year. Then I check the diary, and realise that this year the 14th February is on a Sunday, so I will be at church for the whole day. Attending the family worship service in the morning, and attending a Safe-guarding course in the afternoon. So by the time I get home, I think we will just about have enough energy to celebrate with a quiet meal at home.

So I encourage you to commemorate Valentine's Day this year, by doing something for someone else. One suggestion would be to use the day as an opportunity to call, write or e-mail someone you haven't heard from for a while.

Honour Christ this year by serving him in the spirit of St. Valentine.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Zoe McQuillin

Who am I?

The “Who am I?” interviewed for the last issue of Good News was, of course, Father Christmas!

Look back through the answers he gave to the questions. Remember his job, “Working in distribution services” - Father Christmas was making worldwide deliveries well before Amazon, DHL, Yodel and so forth!

Probably his oldest delivery rival is the Royal Mail, whose first “Master of the Posts” position was created 500 years ago, in 1516. However, back then the Royal Mail was just for royalty whereas Father Christmas delivered to all.

Father Christmas is, unfortunately, not a regular member of our congregation – so check out the “Who am I” slot next month to read the clues to the identity of someone who is with us throughout the year.



Emmanu'–EL Apostolic Gospel Academy

from De Montfort University in Leicester



Finalists in the 2015 BBC Gospel Choirs competition,
who have also performed for Her Majesty the Queen

**An evening of uplifting praise and worship on
Saturday 20 February 2016**

at Trinity Methodist Church
Lingfield Road, East Grinstead, RH19 2HA



Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm start
£10 for adults and £5 for under 16s

Refreshments on sale during interval

Tickets from Mabel on 07801 853815

Email: tickets@trinitymethodist.org.uk

www.trinitymethodist.org.uk

Christmas Concert



What a joy it was to see the gallery full and to proclaim that Christmas is alive and well at the Lindfield URC.

We were under resourced this year and it was great that several of the audience helped as tray carriers.

It added to the fellowship of the event. Grateful thanks to all who took part and in the process we were able to support the Hospice and also the flood victims appeal and cover our expenses.

I recently found a tape called "A Prelude to Christmas" dated 1997. Was that the start of the concerts?

However, I thank you all for the support over the years. It has been appreciated.

Peter Swann

The Eldership

The Elders are called by God and elected by the Church Meeting (usually at the Annual Meeting in November). Their leadership role is mainly in the Spiritual side of the Church's life. This is a great privilege but also a huge responsibility, which includes being a Trustee of the Church Finances, as required by the Charity Commission.

To be nominated for Eldership you have to be over 18 and have been a member here for at least a year. Each Elder serves for a period of three years, but is able to stand for re-election if they feel it right to do so. Every Church member has a specific Elder, but of course all are free to speak with any Elder if they have concerns for themselves or others. Members may well not have regular visits from their Elder. However, each of us is available to support and encourage in any way we can, and we want to be there for everyone in our Church family.

Currently, we have eight serving Elders, plus our Minister, who is part of the Eldership, and usually chairs the monthly Elders's Meeting. We also meet for prayer on a Sunday, 45 minutes before the first service. The Church Secretary is nominated by the Elders, and must be serving on the Eldership.

Sue Waller (Secretary) and Jeremy Campling were elected in November to serve for another term of office. The other Elders are Val Cookney, John Merrett, Dan McQuillin, David Walters, Terry Ward (Treasurer) and me Fiona Tingley. Please pray for us, including our Minister, Keith Morrison, and the Youth Pastor, Danny Goodall. We are all one in Christ Jesus our Lord, and we seek to uphold you all with our love and in our prayers.

Fo Tingley



Wider World

This month I have done my best to find some encouraging news from other parts of the world.

Iraq

A radical Shia cleric in Iraq, called Muqtada al-Sadr has called for Christian homes that were illegally stolen from their owners to be returned to them.

All this happened when many Christian families were forced to flee from Iraq when the US-led invasion took place. Scammers took possession of empty houses on the surmise that the original owners would never return.

However, al-Sadr has joined MPs and Christian associations calling for local governments to end this practice. Al-Sadr, the Shi-ite militia leader, was a key fighter in the resistance to the Allied invasion, but now he has moderated his approach which could help heal the many rifts in Iraq.

Pascale Warda, who is a Christian and a former Iraqi immigration minister, has expressed her gratitude for al-Sadr's stance on the issue and has called for all Iraqi citizens to support his views.

Iran

More good news from the troubled Middle East is that the American pastor, Saeed Abedini, a US citizen, has been released after spending three years in prison,

This is a major victory for the millions of people, both in America and world-wide, who have prayed for this moment. His wife, Naghena, thanked all those who stood by her and said that this was a direct answer to prayer.

Saeed was arrested in the summer of 2012, reportedly on charges of undermining national security through private religious gatherings in Christian homes in Iran in the early 2000s.

Saeed is a naturalised American and has dual citizenship but Iran, however, does not recognise his Iranian citizenship.

We rejoice that there seems to be a slight lessening of hostility in some areas of both these countries and we pray that this might continue.

Carol Marsh

Know Lindfield



Question

What was this factory site used for?

Answer in the next issue of Good News.

Answer to December photo

This was in the southern end of Hickmans Lane facing north.

The Bricklayers Arms became The Witch public house. There was a brick making facility in the immediate vicinity which supported the local house building in the early 1900s.



Dementia Action

Haywards Heath Dementia Action Group

Haywards Heath Dementia Action Group was set up in late 2014 with representatives from local authorities, charities and welfare groups, professional services, businesses and some local residents. Its aim is to help people with dementia feel part of the wider community, to improve the quality of life for those living with dementia and their carers, also to increase awareness and understanding as widely as possible

The Group has eleven voluntary Dementia Friends Champions who are able to provide free Dementia Awareness sessions to schools, businesses and other organisations.

The sessions last about an hour and provide attendees with information on key facts about dementia and some ideas on how to help people with the condition.

David Williams, Chairman of the Group explained: "The incidence of dementia is increasing throughout our ageing society. There is much to do and we are supporting the work of the national Dementia Action Alliance in this." He encouraged staff of local businesses and members of voluntary groups to become Dementia Friends to raise awareness and help ensure those living with dementia, have a good and fulfilling quality of life with empathy and understanding from those around them

For further information, please contact Haywards Heath Town Council on 01444 455694



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

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

Pat Philips 01444 484507

Stepping Stones

Zoe McQuillin 01444 484364

Transport

Janet Drayton 01444 483621

Lighthouse (Junior Church)

Co-ordinator

Dawn Walters 01444 441601

Flower Rota

	Arranging	Distributing
February		
7th	Audey Saunders	Liz Cantwell
14th	Heather Swann	Sue Tester
21st	Jessie Green	Jo Bloxham
28th	Janet Wade	Iris Bingham
March		
6th	Betty Billins	Heather Swann
13th	Gladys Porter	Fo Tingley
20th	Carol Walters	Nick Bingham
27th	Easter Flowers	Liz Cantwell

If anyone would like to be involved with distributing the church flowers on Monday morning at 10.30am please contact Heather Swann

Around Lindfield

Saturday 6th February

10.00am Horticultural Society in KEH
Coffee Morning and Plant Sale

Wednesday 10th February

12.15pm Tiger Arts : Lunch in Lindfield URC
1.00pm Concert : Roger Hind Jazz Trio
8.00pm Horticultural Society in KEH
Talk "Life above a Railway Tunnel"

Tuesday 16th February

2.30pm Lindfield Preservation Society in KEH
Talk "Trust Me, I'm an Engineer"

Thursday 18th February

7.30pm Lindfield Film Night in KEH
"Lady in a Van" 12A - Starring Maggie Smith
Tickets available from Tufnells

Saturday 20th February

7.30pm Virtuoso cellists Pavlos Carvalho and Sarah Carvalho-Dubost
joined by Elena Nalimova (piano) for an evening of Romantic
chamber music 7.45 pm HH Methodist Church
Tickets: £12 non-members, reductions for concessions
Info from www.haywardsheathmusicsociety.org.uk



www.lindfieldurc.org.uk