

GoodNEWS MAGAZINE

From Lindfield United Reformed Church

FREE MONTHLY

November 2017



**Solemn the drums thrill:
Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres.
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.**

For the Fallen : Robert Laurence Binyon

Bible verse of the month

“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

Colossians 3:13 NIV

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**Our verse this month comes from Ruth Goodall.
For more information see page 11**

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

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Editorial

During Anne's house move Helen and I agreed to take on the role of Editor for a couple of editions. Although on the Editorial Team for many years I have never been Editor. It reminds me of the closing lines of a 'Poem on the Underground' called 'The Leader' by Roger McGough that I have seen during my daily commute. It is about someone who wants to be a leader and then is confronted with the reality: "Yippee I'm the leader, I'm the leader. OK what shall we do?"!

Fortunately, editing has been made simple this month as there has been a generous flood of material from within the Church, a real smorgasbord of articles showing the impact of our faith in many ways – from the caring and fellowship expressed in our Family News and In Touch to the promises of Christianity shared by Jean and Fo; from the outreach to young people in our community through youth work, to support for those in need both locally and globally. In addition, Michael gives a fascinating summary on the origins of the URC and, for those who like a challenge, there is a word search and another "Who am I?". A reminder of the fast approaching Christmas season comes via Knitivity and the Christmas Post-Box and, of course, there is the opportunity to pause and remember the sacrifice that many men and women made and continue to make for us. As Jesus himself said: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" – which is what He did for each of us.

We hope you enjoy and are challenged by this November Good News.

God bless,

Helen and Martin

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EDITOR

Anne Elvin
01444 456840

EDITORIAL TEAM

Martin Hall, Stuart Marsh
Ruth Goodall

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

Well, we are well into autumn now, the tree in the front garden has started to drop its ochre coloured oak leaves, but before doing so it scattered acorns across the ground. With a brush and a snow shovel (which I've not had to use for its intended purpose since leaving Northampton) I started to clear the paving in front of the garage and became amazed at quite how many acorns there were. Not simply numbering in the tens, and not a few hundred, but easily a thousand and more. I shovelled the nuts from the ground knowing full well there were still some in the tree to come down, not to mention the leaves.

God has ordained that the oak produces so many acorns not because it is expected that every individual tree will produce a great forest, but so that there may be a chance of one or two finding fertile ground some distance from the original tree. Perhaps the large seed will be buried by a squirrel as a future food store, and then for whatever reason the squirrel fails to return to dig it up and instead a sapling shoots up that will one day be a mighty tree. That the oak's probability of producing a new tree are so slim does not stop it scattering seed, indeed it is simply – natural selection would tell us – the trees that drop more acorns that have a better chance of having a future generation.

So why am I rambling on about oaks and acorns considering how annoyed I was about the effort required to clear it up, particularly when I would need to clear it again in a week or so? The acorns stand as a metaphor for the seed of the gospel that we are to impart to others. That we might share something of God's love hundreds, or even thousands of times and perhaps see little reward does not mean we should stop sharing, but rather continue to hope and pray that something we might do rightly in His name will see something germinate in a person's life. A seed of faith that will grow and mature and eventually be tall, strong and purposeful.

On bonfire night, as we share the Good News, and give out a few hundred hot chocolates from the church door, may each recipient of our little "acorn" be refreshed, warmed and, in time, come to know that there is an even greater gift available, that of a new life in Jesus Christ.

May you know God's blessing this month

Your Minister

Keith



Family News

Congratulations

Congratulations to three of our young men who've reached landmark birthdays recently. Peter McCleery and Tom McQuillin are both 21 and Joe Goodchild 18.

All of them have grown up through this Church and it's a real joy to have them amongst us, playing their part in the life of LURC, or in Tom's case, now starting out on the journey of work. Well done, guys!

Fo Tingley

Bereavement

Joan Armitage, a member of Lindfield URC since the 1950s, has died peacefully in Ashton House Care Home on October 16th. Her sister, Liz, and nephew Tim, have been a great support to Joan during recent years of her poor health, and we assure them of our thoughts and deepest sympathy. Joan was a quiet, gentle and unassuming member of our Church Family, and over the years she has served in Junior Church, as an Elder and as a very efficient Minute Secretary.

Because of her failing health, Joan has been unable to attend worship for several years. However, in times past she was known for her care and support for various friends within the Church community; a lovely Christian lady now home with her Saviour.

We express love, prayers and sincere sympathy to Win Wilton and her family, following her Husband's recent death. Stan had been bravely fighting cancer for about five years, nursed and cared for during practically all that time by Win. Devotion indeed – they had been married for 68 years.

Those of you who, like me, have been around in LURC for a good many years, will remember with gratitude and affection Thea Jones. Thea went home to her Lord and Saviour in August, joining her husband Noel, who had died several years earlier. Our sympathy and prayers are with her family, especially her son, David, and daughter, Rachel. During the family's years here in Lindfield, Thea worked tirelessly in her service to the Lord. She will be especially remembered for the Pastoral work which Thea set up, and which proved such a blessing to many. When Noel and Thea moved to Oxfordshire she trained for the non-stipendary Ministry, a calling which she fulfilled faithfully for many years.

If you remember her, I am sure you would agree with me that Thea was a real blessing to us, a much valued and loved member of our Church Family.

Fo Tingley

Family News

The Fellowship

At the September meeting, after a short AGM, Dorothy Brown "took the floor" and told us something of her life story – a most enjoyable time of sharing and friendship. Dorothy wrote a little "jingle" for our AGM which will give you some idea of the format, with lots of well-known names to complement the speaker and other pleasures of the afternoon.

By the time this magazine is produced our October meeting will have taken place – so on to the November meeting, to be held on Wednesday, 22 November, at 2.30 p.m. This will be our Christmas miscellany. There will be the usual B & B stall and a cup of tea and, hopefully, mince pies at the end of the meeting.

Our meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month are open to everyone so do please come along and meet up with old friends, or make new ones. New members are always made very welcome so why not give us a try? We look forward to seeing you!

Pat Phillips

The Fellowship

A Poem by **Dorothy Brown**

*Dear Chris, our Chairman, laughs and says, "I just put out the chairs",
But always keeps his eye on us, we know he really cares.*

*His Mary took our money and put it in a pile,
We hope she'll soon be back again, we miss her winning smile.*

*Pauline sits by the table, we like to have a look
And find our bargain for the day and maybe choose a book.*

*Doreen finds lovely poems and reads them with a style,
It's good to sit there quietly and listen for a while.*

*Linda looks after all the cash and sees the bills are paid,
We know we're never in the red, she always makes the grade.*

*And others fully play their part by coming here each day
And, as we know what we believe, there is always time to pray.*

*The 'tea girls', Gladys, Maise, have done it all for years,
If they decide to retire, we'd all go home in tears!*

*The 'washers up' are such a help, with all things put away,
Such volunteers are precious, we thank them every day.*

*And is there any name left out, oh dear, we can't have that,
Of course we know and raise a cheer for Secretary Pat,*

*She books the speakers, sends the cards and really runs the show.
What would we do without her, we really do not know.*

*And if your name's not mentioned, it's now your time has come,
You give support, come rain or shine, you're valued every one.*

*God bless us all as now we leave and keep us in good cheer
As we prepare to play our parts for yet another year.*

In Touch

On the 16th September we held our Annual Quiet Day which this year was led by Emmeline and Jacquie. We were taken on a 'Holiday with God' when we had the opportunity of 'visiting' various countries, each of which had a different theme for us to consider.

In Spain we learnt to be still and take time with God, while in the French Alps we tried to listen to what God has to say to us despite the distractions of our busy lives. We dealt with fear and with risk-taking in the Swiss Lakes and Austria, respectively, and in Holland we learnt a lesson in how to deal with the unexpected. In Germany we considered healing and in Belgium we thought about the marginalised and tried to consider the needs of the disadvantaged people around us and in the wider world. In each country we were given questions to think about and also bible readings and prayers to help guide us through the theme.

This Quiet Day was very different and thought provoking and it was also fun as interspersed with the more serious aspects of the day we had various activities to do, such as paper boat making, trying to build a tower out of marshmallows and cocktail sticks, making an icing tulip, eating waffles and colouring in pictures. We also had a 'bring and share' lunch which we certainly needed and appreciated after all that travelling!!!

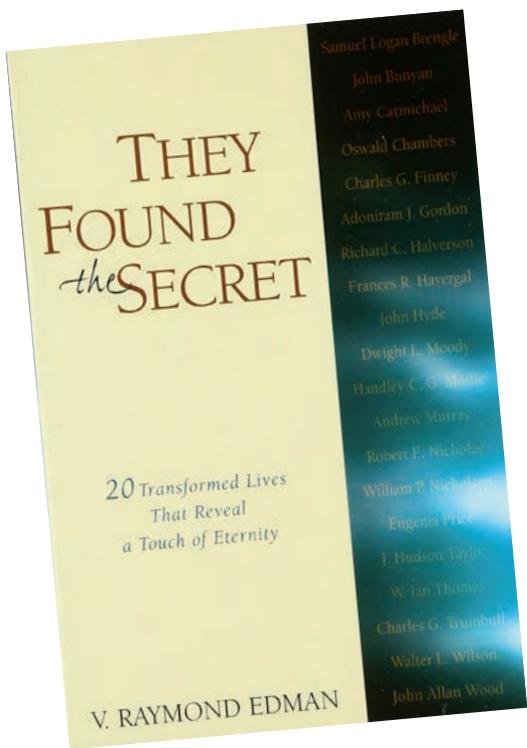
A very big "thank you" is due to Jacquie and Emmeline for all the time and effort they put into planning what was a very successful and thought provoking day.

Our next meeting will be on the 28th November when we will be trying to improve our skills at different crafts. As usual we will begin at 7.45 p.m. and everyone is welcome to join us.

Janet Wade



They found the Secret



Our house is buzzing with secrets! Mike and I have birthdays in November and December and then there is Christmas. The grandchildren are bursting with the secrets that they have to keep! In January our eldest daughter Joy and her husband James will be celebrating their Silver Wedding Anniversary – more secrets to keep!

Recently I have been re-reading one of my favourite books called 'They found the Secret' by V. Raymond Edman.

This book tells the stories of 20 people who discovered the secret of living. They discovered life with a capital L. Their lives displayed a radiance, a richness, a warmth and a triumph that intrigued and challenged. How did they exchange self-centeredness, self-effort, inner dissatisfaction, discouragement and a temptation to give it all up? Like many, many people they discovered that life is all about the indwelling of the Lord Jesus Christ made real and rewarding by the Holy Spirit.

"There is no more glorious reality in the world. It is new life for old. It is rejoicing for weariness, and radiance for dreariness. It is strength for weakness, and steadiness for uncertainty. It is triumph even through tears, and tenderness of heart instead of touchiness. It is lowliness of spirit instead of self-exaltation, and loveliness of life because of the presence of the altogether Lovely One."

I thank God for all the people in LURC and further afield who have discovered 'the secret' and have blessed my life. Don't let us keep our discovery a secret let us share it and shout it from the rooftops!

Jean Gardiner

Knitivity

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the knitting of the nativity characters by knitting or donating wool or needles.

The good news is that the required numbers of characters have now been knitted, or are in the process of being knitted.

Please do not start any new characters and, if you are knitting a character, please may I have the finished characters by Sunday 5th November.

Full details of where the Knitivity characters can be seen will be in the December Good News.

Thank you to you all.

Jacquie Odell



Something Different

Sunday Evening Worship - November 2017

Sunday 5th November

6:30pm : Be still and know

The familiar words of Psalm 46 verse 10, "Be still and know that I am God" remind us that in the business of life it is good to take time to be still and wait on God. We will gather for a quiet, reflective service including times of prayer (personal and shared), silence for waiting on God, Bible readings and reflection upon those words. We will make use of the simple music of Jacques Berthier (Composer of music for the Taize Community).

Sunday 12th November

6:30pm : Agapé Communion

Acts 2 verse 46 tells of the life of the early church:

"Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts..."

They had all things in common and gathering to eat was no exception. The Agapé Meal brings together the fellowship of sharing a meal and the sacramental feast of communion. Worship will also include songs, hearing the word of God, opportunities to bring testimony and encouragement through conversation and time to pray.

Sunday 19th November

6:30pm : P.R.A.Y. Together

In Ephesians 6 verse 18, Paul exhorts us to :

"Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."

We should never underestimate the power of prayer, the vital means by which, in his grace, God invites us to engage in his working, both speaking, waiting and listening. Worship on this evening will contain familiar elements organised to follow the pattern of :

P – Praise

R - Repentance

A – Asking

Y – Yourself.

The service will include sung worship, hearing and reflecting on God's word, simple (presented) drama and prayer.

Bible Verse

Sunday 26th November 4:00pm Time to Remember

As the season of Advent and Christmas approaches, marking the feast of Christ the King, an opportunity to invite the church and wider community to gather to remember and give thanks for the life of loved ones. We will reflect on the words of Psalm 23, especially God's closeness and protection that we encounter in verse 4 :

"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."

The service will include traditional hymns, worship songs, reflective readings, God's word, worship songs sung for listening, testimony and simple teaching and an opportunity to respond in a simple practical way.

Please note this service will start at the earlier time of 4:00pm. Come along and bring a friend.

Adam Earle

“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

Colossians 3 v13.

Quite often, if a customer at work is rude to me, it plays on my mind for a while after the event. I find myself coming back to this verse to remind myself to 'bear with' others, and remember we are all only human and make so many mistakes.

Forgiveness is a key part of all relationships. We learn forgiveness from Christ, as he forgives us when we mess up, however big or small. We are called to mirror God in his forgiveness, which is certainly a challenge for me.

Not forgiving someone can cause pain in so many ways, but with God's help we can forgive, let go, and let God take control.

Ruth Goodall

Somewhere over the rainbow



Somewhere over the rainbow skies are blue, or so the well-known song claims. But to me there are blessings to be counted 'Over the rainbow'.

Among the many wonderful promises found in God's word is the one right at the beginning of the Bible (Genesis 9:13-16). God promised that whenever a rainbow appears in the sky He will remember the Covenant which He made with Noah and every living creature, that never again would flood waters cover the earth to destroy all life.

The rainbow also reminds me of an earlier verse in which God says: "As long as the earth endures, seed-time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

Whilst in the North West Highlands of Scotland we saw many rainbows. One was particularly outstanding; the colours especially vivid and it was so wide – indeed a truly spectacular sight amongst the beauty of God's wonderful creation. We had sunshine, we had mist, we had rain, but all worth it for the assurance the rainbows gave us of our Lord's ongoing love and care for all that He has made.

Maybe, whenever we see a rainbow we should remind ourselves of more of God's promises!

Here are just a few that mean a lot to me:-

- “*For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.*” (*Isaiah 41:13*)
- “*For I know the plans I have for you*”, declares the Lord, “*plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*” (*Jeremiah 29:11*)
- “*Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.*” (*Joshua 1:9*)
- “*Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*” (*Matthew 28:20b*)
- “*In my Father’s House are many rooms; if it were not so I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you..... ...I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.*” “*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*” (*John 14:2&3, 27*)
- *The Apostle Paul assures the Ephesians (3:20): “Now glory be to God! By his mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope.”*
- *“For God says, At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you”* (*2Corinthians 6:2*)
- *As John describes the New Jerusalem in Revelation (21:3&4): “Look, the home of God is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will remove all of their sorrows, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. For the old world and its evils are gone for ever.”*

Come to think of it, we don't need to see a rainbow at all! God's promises are always with us to reassure us and to strengthen us, whatever our circumstances and wherever we are, be it in rain or shine, or somewhere over the rainbow!

Fiona Tingley

Remembrance Poppies

We all know that the red poppy is the symbol of remembrance for all those who sadly fell in the two World Wars and subsequent conflicts, but how did this come about?

When the terrible battles of the First World War took place in Flanders and Northern France a century ago, the landscape was left barren and with fields full of mud. Shortly afterwards bright red poppies began to grow and cover the ugly scars of war, where no other plants would grow.

In 1915 a Canadian, Lt. Col. John McCrae, lost a close friend at Ypres and he was later moved by the sight of the poppies to write a poem, "In Flanders Fields".

In 1918, as the Armistice was due to be signed, a lady in New York, Moina Michael, an academic, was so inspired by this poem that she felt she had to do something to raise money for the wounded ex-servicemen. She went out and bought as many red silk poppies as she could find and offered them for sale as a symbol of remembrance.

These proved very popular and the idea was seen by a French woman, Anna Guerin, who brought it over to England.

The (Royal) British Legion, formed in 1921, saw the poppies and ordered nine million to be made and sold them on 11th November that year. They sold out almost immediately, raising over £106,000, which was a considerable sum for those days. This money was used to help World War 1 veterans with employment and housing. The following year, Major George Howson set up the Poppy Factory to employ disabled ex-servicemen.

The work continues today and the factory and warehouse in Aylesford in Kent produce millions of poppies each year raising money for ex-servicemen and their families.

Carol Marsh



In Flanders Fields

*In Flanders fields the poppies grow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders Fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

Lt. Col. John McCrae



Sunday Services

The **10.00am** 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 after the morning service.

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	8.00pm	Church Meeting (2nd Thursday, Alternate Months)
Fri	5:00pm	Rooted
	7.30pm	Pulse (Years 6-9) games, craft, tuck and a bible message (term time)
Sun	7.30pm	18-25 Group

The church is open on Tuesday (Concourse) 10.00am –Noon.

November Church diary

1st Wednesday	12:30pm	Lunch Fellowship	18th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, Evan Free Church
4th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, Evan Free Church	19th Sunday	10:00am	Family Worship Rev Keith Morrison followed by Annual Meeting
	6:30pm	Bonfire Night		6:30pm	Something Different Adam Earle
5th Sunday	10:00am	Family Service Adam Earle	22nd Wednesday	2:30pm	The Fellowship
	6:30pm	Something Different Adam Earle		7:45pm	Elders' Meeting
9th Thursday	8:00pm	Church Meeting	23rd Thursday	8:00pm	Church Prayer Meeting
11th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, URC	25th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, Evan Free Church
12th Sunday	10:00am	Family Worship	26th Sunday	10:00am	Communion Dan McQuillin
	10:55am	Including Act of Remembrance		4:00pm	Something Different Adam Earle
	6:30pm	Something Different (Communion) Adam Earle	28th Tuesday	7:45pm	In Touch Christmas Crafts
16th Thursday	House Group Week				

YOUTH



Hello!

October has been a busy month, and as we look towards Christmas, there is lots more to come!

In Pulse and Rooted this term, we have been looking at what God is. So far, we have learned that God is love, God is unchanging, God is powerful and God is our father. Each week we spend a few minutes thinking about a 'God is...' and in Rooted, we then complete a craft or activity relating to the theme.

Our numbers in Rooted have gone up since September. We have had 17 young people come along in the past few weeks, and we have had a few missing each time. It is very possible that we could have over 20 young people come along one week soon!

A couple of weeks ago, we had our first 'Open the Book' assembly at St. Augustine's primary school. Keith, Jo Bloxham and I walked into the school one Wednesday morning carrying lots of fruit and a small tree!

With the help of 5 pupils, we told the story titled 'A Sad Day', which is the story of Adam and Eve being tempted in the garden and having to leave because they disobeyed God.

We are sharing the 'Open the Book' assemblies with St. Augustine's church in Scaynes Hill. The assemblies will be almost every week, and Keith, Jo, Richard and myself will be going in three more times before Christmas.

On October 14th, the Southern Synod Youth Executive ran a youth event called Re-Unite alongside Synod Together. We had nine young people attend the event, from three or four different churches in the Synod. The theme for the day was 'Walking the Way', and so during our workshops they had the option to decorate their own pair of shoes!

The young people also joined the main programme before lunch and encouraged those who went to share 'Good News' stories relating to the children and young people from their churches. It was great to hear so many people share what God is doing within the Southern Synod.

In other news, I continue to go into Oathall Community College to help run their Christian Union. We get about 25 pupils each week, unless we are running a 'grill a Christian' week, when we can easily get more than 30!

This term we have been sharing testimonies, and looking at different people in the Bible whose lives were changed because they met Jesus. It is always encouraging to see the young people in Oathall share their stories and build each other up!

Thank you all for your continued prayers over the children and young people.

Danny

PAGES

Boys' Brigade

We have had a very mixed start to the new session. The Anchors Section has started very well with weekly increase in numbers of boys. We are now able to split the section into two teams which gives opportunities for the boys to work together to achieve points for their team.

The boys are very enthusiastic and very noisy but they have lots of fun. Juniors and Company Sections still struggle. We were disappointed to lose four boys from Juniors at the start of the session due to a clash of activities on a Monday evening.

However we haven't lost them altogether as it is great to see all four now attending Rooted on a Friday evening. Company Section continues at the same level as last session.

We held our annual enrolment service beginning of October and many parents joined us for this evening.

David Walters

THE BOYS' BRIGADE
>the adventure begins here

SURE & STEADFAST

Ages 5-18

Monday

6pm Anchor Boys, ages 5-8

6.30pm Junior Section, ages 8-11

7.30pm Company Section, ages 11-18

Danny Goodall 07743 438970
dgoodall@lindfieldurc.org.uk lindfieldurc.org.uk/youth

Lindfield
United Reformed Church



Mouse Makes

All of God's people are saints ...

"To those who are made holy in Christ Jesus, and called to be **saints**, with all those in every place who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours".
from 1 Corinthians 1:2

The Bible tells us that a SAINT is not just a Christian that we think of as special but *anyone* who believes in Jesus.



S T E P H E N
P E T E R D A N P
N O M I C H A E L E T
T I M O T H Y V S C J O N
P C O P A T R I C K K O M J
H H J I M S E D P E H A O
I O A A A L L S A I N T S
L L M A R K U G U T J T E
I A E N Y E K A L H U H P
P S S D O G E O P O D E H
B A R T H O L O M E W
G E O R G E E A B
W A N N E R S

... we are all members of the world-wide communion of saints!



Can you find these saints names in the word search above?

GEORGE • ANDREW • DAVID • PATRICK • MARY • JOSEPH • MATTHEW • MARK • LUKE
JOHN • PETER • THOMAS • JAMES • JUDE • BARTHOLOMEW • PAUL
TIMOTHY • PHILIP • STEPHEN • NICHOLAS • MICHAEL • ANNE • ALL SAINTS

Who am I?

Here is yet another set of answers from a member of our congregation to the usual questions so that you can (or not!) work out "Who am I?". The answer will be revealed in the next edition of Good News. So, if you can't guess you've only four weeks to wait....and then in even less time it will be Christmas again!

Where were you born?

Newcastle upon Tyne

What was your favourite subject at school?

Probably History and English

What was your first Church?

I think Heaton Baptist Church but the first one that I can actually remember is Little Stoke Baptist Church

What is/was your job?

Insurance broking

What's your favourite sport?

Favourite is such a strong word! I like to watch tennis and dancing but badminton is the only sport that I play in a very non-competitive fashion!

What is your favourite hymn/worship song?

I have quite a few but I think that 'In Christ Alone' expresses my faith and hope in Jesus amazingly well.

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

Generally half full

What's your favourite food?

Indian



A permanent contract

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

That's difficult! I have been to some amazing places and would like to revisit all of them but top would probably be Norway or Boston in the USA.

What makes you laugh?

Lots of things. Remembering fun times with friends and family. Laughing with little kids when they are being silly and just having fun. I love word play humour like the Two Ronnies and at the moment I am very much enjoying 'Upstart Crow' on the TV.

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

I am ok on literature and some history plus some random general knowledge so a bit of an all-rounder hopefully, but definitely not sport!

Hi all , I just wanted to let you know that I officially have a permanent contract at Oathall Community College in Hayes Heath as a ICT Technician.

I have been working here since March 2017 and I enjoy the role, as there is always something different that I do and learn each day! I just wanted to say thank you very much for the support and encouragement that you have given me throughout the years.

This has not been an easy journey since my last job at Creative Technology did not work out. I went for various interviews and I then had to try and find some voluntary work to keep me going.

It has proved that even though I may have Autism and mild learning difficulties, with a bit of patience, support and adaptation, anything is possible.

If you want to know a bit more about my story please let me know.

Peter McCleery



Where stands the United Reformed Church?

In September I was preaching at Lindfield on the unity God wants for his church, based on the headship of Christ. I gave some background of the ecumenical movement and the formation of the United Reformed Church (URC) in 1972 as a response to the underlying call on which the movement for Christian unity is based – Jesus's prayer (John 17:20/21)

"It is not for these alone that I pray, but for those who through their words put their faith in me. May they all be one; as you Father are in me and I in you, so also may they be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me"

REB

I was a little surprised when a number of people asked me after the service to put something in writing about our origins – but here goes.

The ecumenical movement, as it was called, emanated from the World Mission Conference in Edinburgh in 1910, when church leaders concluded that divided witness was a major impediment to the call to win the world for Christ. As a result they started to meet, pray and work together to overcome differences and move forward together.

The World Council of Churches was inaugurated in 1948 – many national and more local Councils came into existence. Organic unity – the structural reunion of churches – was the aim.

But ecumenism was hard going. Roman Catholics stood aloof, free church people could only take communion in an Anglican church with the specific permission of the bishop. Attempts to bring the Church of England and Methodists together failed dismally.

Nevertheless it was against this background that in 1972 Congregationalists, Presbyterians and Churches of Christ came together and our denomination came into being with a momentous service in Westminster Abbey. Archbishop Michael Ramsay, Cardinal John Heenan and Free Church Moderator Irvonwy Morgan greeted us and each pledged "I give thanks for this union and share your resolve to seek that wider unity which is Christ's will".

The new URC was the first fruit of this new move towards that organic unity which seemed to be the ideal, the aim of the established churches. Much was said about our being the catalyst. It was widely anticipated that we would not be around long, but that very soon we would unite with others.



URC Service, Westminster Abbey 1972

As a testimonial to that principle the URC made a firm commitment that it would only found and set up new congregations ecumenically – as union churches with another denomination. A higher proportion of our churches ever since has been involved in Local Ecumenical Projects and Covenants than any other denomination. In national and local contexts it has often been our church which has supplied leadership and initiative in co-operative ventures far beyond our size and weight.

And if I am asked, what the URC stands for – what is its essential identity?, I would say - we are a free church. We are biblically based and evangelical without being fundamentalist. Our worship has no set liturgy but follows an informal pattern of prayer (extemporary and prepared), music (traditional and modern), reading and preaching the Word and observing the sacraments of the Lord's Supper and Baptism (of both believers and children).

We are very open – a broad church. We are governed, not by bishops or hierarchies, but by democratic councils and church meetings comprising both lay and ministerial members.

So church unity – the ecumenical movement - was to be the activator, the trigger for the renewal of the Christian church in this land. But sadly that was just not to be! The reasons for that are probably a subject for another article – maybe we were just looking for the wrong sort of unity – but hopefully this provides a bit of background to where we have come from and where we are now.

Meanwhile, remember Jesus's prayer: "May they all be one...that the world may believe".

Rev Michael Davies

Hunger Lunch

Helen Berhane – Who has suffered greatly for proclaiming her Faith

"I want to give a message to those of you who are Christians and live in the free world: You must not take your freedom for granted. If I could sing in prison think what you could do for God's glory with your freedom."

Helen Berhane

As part of the 2017 missions programme the Missions Group had planned a hunger lunch for Sunday the 15th October with Kenneth Harrod, from Release International, as speaker.

The Group were absolutely delighted when he said he would be able to bring Helen Berhane with him during her two-week UK tour. Helen is an Eritrean Gospel Singer who was imprisoned in that country, and repeatedly tortured, for sharing her faith. At the morning service Kenneth preached from Psalm 2: "The Kings rise up and rulers band together against the Lord's anointed", and Helen spoke about her time of horrific imprisonment.

Following coffee, and before lunch, she answered questions about her ordeal and subsequent life and sang to us one of her beautiful Eritrean Gospel songs.



As members of the Missions Group said: "Kenneth and Helen were used by the Lord to challenge and bless us" and "What a memorable morning with Helen's testimony. It really moved people, and showed how we should totally trust the Lord with our lives, because he has a purpose for everything that happens to us, and can turn around every situation for His glory."

Special thanks to Harry McCleery for organising this memorable day with Release International, and thanks also to all who helped on the day and to those of you who generously donated to and pray for the work of Release International.

Terry Oliver
Missions Group

Milton Jones

Is out there!

To celebrate our wedding anniversary, last month Helen and I went to watch the weird and whacky comedian Milton Jones at the Hawth Theatre in Crawley. His show was as surreal as expected, but a great start to our two-day mini-break. He is famous for one-liners along the lines of: "My wife... it's difficult to say what she does... she sells seashells on the seashore." Part of the reason for the focus on one-liners is Milton's Christian faith. As he told Evangelical Alliance when interviewed at Greenbelt back in 2010: "When people start off in stand-up comedy they often swear more than they need to - it's an easy way to get a laugh and lards up thin material. I don't want to do that, so I have to get to the joke quickly, which is why I do so many one-liners. Christians can take longer to get started in comedy because of that, but we get the benefit later as we can do family shows."

You can see Milton Jones discussing Christianity and its impact on the world on a short Guardian video (see link below). As he says: "Apart from being involved at the beginning of science, systems of government, philosophy, art, schools, hospitals, the emancipation of women, the abolition of slavery, social welfare, helping form the basis of the moral code most people live by, and introducing popular notions of justice, mercy, decency and compassion – what has Christianity ever really done for the world?"

A final one-liner of Milton's to end on: "Some people see the church as a giant helicopter. They're scared to get too close in case they get sucked into the rotas." Go see him if you can during his 2017-2018 'Milton Jones is out there' tour!

Martin Hall



Mission Focus



The Mission focus for November and December is the Worthing Churches Homeless Projects (WCHP).

"WCHP is a local charity with projects in Worthing, Littlehampton, Horsham and the surrounding areas. We provide community hubs for people who are rough sleeping or are insecurely housed, helping them to access food, clothing and support from specialist staff and external agencies. Every night there are over 60 men and women sleeping in our hostels, which provide accommodation with different levels of support. Our Recovery Project in Worthing, for example, helps those struggling with substance misuse. We aim to empower homeless and insecurely housed individuals to achieve sustainable independent living."

"Thanks to the support of the communities of West Sussex we are able to work with over 1,000 people every year and aim to meet what is, sadly, a growing need for our services."

Sally and Simon Ross-Clark

Christmas Postbox

We can hardly believe it but its nearly time to get out the Red Christmas Post Box again! It will be on the Concourse from Sunday December 3rd, til Friday 15th, cards will be ready to collect on Sundays 17th and 24th.

If you wish to send cards to members and regular worshippers in our church just pop them into the Post Box and we'll do the rest. We do ask that you give a donation to charity and this year we are again supporting the Worthing Churches Homeless Project which is a very worthwhile cause.

Tips for Successful Delivery:-

- *Please put the full surname of the person you are sending to.*
- *Please add the first line of the address in case we have to deliver them by hand.*
- *Please confine addresses to Lindfield and Haywards Heath area.*
- *Please sort your cards into alphabetical order and secure them with an elastic band.*

Sorry about the rules but it does make life a little easier for the collators! Thank you in advance for your co-operation and may we be the first to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas!

The Post Box Team



Mid-Sussex REMEMBRANCE CONCERT In Aid of the Royal British Legion

**Sunday 12 November 2017
7.30 p.m. at the Dolphin Leisure Centre, HH**

Ardingly Choral Society, with Mid-Sussex Sinfonia
and Ardingly and Copthorne Prep School choirs

Conductor Robert Hammersley

Gounod – St Cecilia Mass
Jenkins – The Armed Man (Excerpts)
Remembrance - Hammersley

Soloists: Soprano – Olivia Bell
Alto – Jane Haughton
Tenor - Lawrence Olsworth Peter
Bass - Robert Davies

TICKETS £15 (£13.00 concessions)

Available from: Carousel Music (01444 417654); M. Kershaw (01825 791241)
or online at <http://www.ardinglychoralsociety.org.uk>



Pop In

The end of an era

Back in 1997 the Pastoral Team were discussing with the Minister, Norman Smith, what we should be doing to make full use of the new facilities. Carol Walters, one of the group, came up with the idea of opening up the new lounge one morning a week for people to pop in for coffee, homemade cakes and biscuits. The main aim was for those running this to show the face of the church, to sit and talk with people and for people to chat together.

There was only one Tea Shop in the village in those days so this idea was immediately taken up. There was no problem finding a name - 'Pop In'. Thursday was chosen as this was a day with nothing specific on, and many elderly people came into the village to collect their pension from the Post Office. Over the years there have been many changes, the baby clinic changed their time from Monday afternoon to Thursday morning and new mums visiting the clinic were able to have coffee and chat together amongst themselves and with the older people gathered.

Information about the life of the church was readily available for them to talk over and take away. The facilities at the clinic grew and on occasions you could not move on a Thursday morning for the queue of buggies along the hallway.

Staff from the clinic also welcomed the facilities and were happy to foster a good working relationship with those running 'Pop In'. They also received free coffee and biscuits. There was always a real buzz about the place.

Time has moved on, the village is now awash with coffee shops, the most recent addition having space for buggies so mums gravitate there. Pensions are paid direct so there is no need for elderly folk to come into the village on Thursday mornings and the arrangements for the clinic have changed resulting in fewer mums attending regularly.

So it has been decided that there is no real desire for such a facility and on Thursday 28th October 'Pop In' closed its doors for the last time. Thanks to those who had the vision, to all those who have supported it over the years and to those who made cakes and biscuits, came week by week to make coffee and provide facilities and most of all spent time talking with people who just wanted a chat.

Finally a special thanks to Carol who has organised and run 'Pop In' over most of this period.

Phonebook

Keith Morrison (Minister)

Telephone 01444 484791
Email kmorrison@lindfieldurc.org.uk
Normal day off Friday

Danny Goodall (Youth Pastor)

Youth Office 01444 487607
Mobile 07443 438970
Email dgoodall@lindfieldurc.org.uk
Normal day off Saturday

Church Secretary

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

Treasurer

Terry Ward 01444 482986

Boys' Brigade:

Keith Morrison (Chaplain) 01444 484791

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 Phillips 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
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November

5th	Betty Billins	Meta Orchin
12th	Remembrance Sunday	Lesley Sparks
19th	Sue Waller	Jo Bloxham
26th	Carol Walters	Iris Bingham

December

3rd	Plant	No further deliveries
10th	Plant	until Monday
17th	Plant	
24th	Christmas Flowers	8th January
31st	Christmas Flowers	2018

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 4th November

- 7.30pm Lindfield Bonfire Society Torchlight Procession (followed by)
8.30pm Grand Firework display on Lindfield Common

Tuesday 7th November

- 2.30pm Lindfield Preservation Society in King Edward Hall
Talk - "The Millennium Seed Bank
The Most Diverse Place on Earth" by Keith Manger

Wednesday 8th November

- 12.00 noon Tiger Arts - Lunch in The Tiger
1.00pm Concert in All Saints Church
"Stepping Out" - local Barbershop Quartet
7.30pm Lindfield Horticultural Society in King Edward Hall
Annual General Meeting followed by a talk
"Historic Gardens of Sussex"
by Jim Stockwell from Sussex Gardens Trust

Thursday 16th November

- 7.30pm Village Film Night in King Edward Hall
"My Cousin Rachel" 12A starring Rachel Weisz.
Tickets available from Tufnells



www.lindfieldurc.org.uk