

GoodNEWS **MAGAZINE**

FREE MONTHLY

From Lindfield United Reformed Church

April 2018



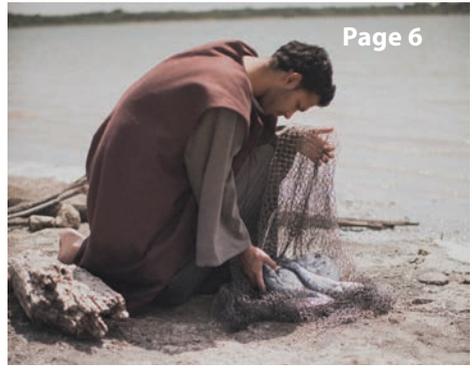
Follow Me

John 21:22 NIV

Bible verse of the month

“Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.”

John 21:25 NIV

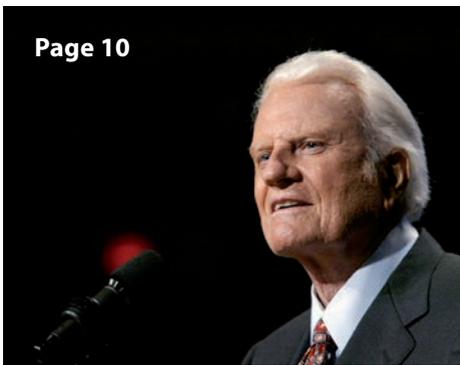


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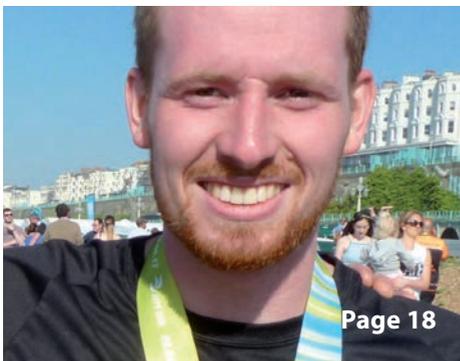


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If you have a verse or article you would like to share in GoodNEWS email:
goodnews@lindfieldurc.org.uk



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Editorial

I apologise that in the March Editorial I said that “Spring is definitely in the air”, but it was written before the “Beast from the East” and the “Mini Beast” put in their surprise appearances! However, I have more confidence in saying that Spring is coming this month, because Keith has noticed it in his letter (p. 4) and Stuart, clearly more weather savvy than me, is encouraging us to select our summer blooms (p. 8). The Easter weekend is spread across March and April this year, so our emphasis in this issue is on the encounters of Jesus with ordinary people following his resurrection and His call to “Follow me”, with a thought provoking article from Simon (p. 6-7), a Parish Pump article (p. 13) and a topical word-search for young and old (p. 19). One person who certainly obeyed the call was Billy Graham, who sadly died earlier this year: several in the congregation have provided us with their memories of his crusades (p. 10-13).

We have most of the regular contributions and the Missions Team provide information on CAP, who we support in March/April, as well as looking forward to an exciting weekend of OM activity on 15th-16th September (p. 22-23), so make a note in your diaries. Sports fans will be pleased to welcome the Commonwealth Games to our TV screens this month and Alex tells us of his own sports challenge – the Brighton Marathon, on 15th April (p. 18). Music fans will be pleased to learn of two events locally (p. 9 and 24-25).

Thanks to all who have provided information and articles for GoodNEWS this month – the pages would be rather dull without your input. As always we welcome your comments, suggestions and ideas for articles for future issues and the team look forward to welcoming Anne back soon to take charge of those issues!

God Bless.

Martin

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Dear friends

Is it that time already? As we get to April we are a quarter of the way through 2018, but it seems just the other day that we were in the depths of winter; though as I write this in late March, with small pockets of snow on the ground, spring has been feeling perhaps a little more chilly than normal. That said, the days have lengthened and when the wind has stopped blowing from the east some of the days have been getting into double figures, perhaps even feeling warm.

It is understood that the month got its Roman name from the verb *aperire*, “to open”, from the idea that this is the time of year plants might bud and flower, an opening up of nature, and an end of hibernation. However, with Easter day being the first of April this year we can also think of a different opening, how the stone was rolled away from the tomb of Jesus revealing not a body but folded grave clothes. New life had come, the Son had risen, and joy could spring forth.

Easter gives a new beginning to our life, the living Lord demonstrated first to the women, then to the other disciples, and then to the wider world, a message that death need not be the end; we need not limit our understanding of who God is or what God can do, there is a resurrection and we too can be raised.

But, as we think of the openness of the tomb, are we open to others about the great hope discovered that first day? Do we cling to the feet of the Lord, or do we run to tell others about what happened? Are we still as excited as those followers who had been eating their evening meal after the long walk to Emmaus but, on seeing Jesus, chose to race back to Jerusalem immediately rather than bed down for the night?

May this be a month that we rejoice in the risen redeemer; with an openness of heart may we speak of God’s grace, and the new life we’ve received. Please pray for the opportunity to share the joyful story of our Lord, with friends, colleagues and neighbours. Pray that their hearts may be open to receive, and that you might know the right words to share, so that God’s love for the world will become known.

May the Lord’s open and empty tomb give you hope this Easter, and each day.

With every blessing

Your Minister

Keith

Family News

Congratulations!

We rejoice with David and Carol Walters as they celebrate their Golden Wedding on 13th April. Warm congratulations to you both.

Sympathy

Our Sympathy and prayers are with two families who have come together in our Church recently to celebrate and give thanks for the life of a loved one. We remember the family of Joan Francis who has had connections with LURC over many years. Also in our thoughts, Denise Butcher and her family following the death of John, a former church member here.

Fo Tingley



Messy Church Dates

April 20th

May 18th

June 15th

July 13th

The Fellowship

The next meeting of The Fellowship will be on Wednesday, 25th April at 2:30pm. This meeting is our "Charity tea" with the Air Ambulance being the charity we are supporting this year. Neil Sadler will be telling us of the amazing service they provide.

There will be the usual Bring & Buy stall and, at the end of the meeting, a cup of tea, cake and time for a chat with friends.

Baskets will be provided for donations if you wish to support this wonderful charity. We do hope that this meeting will be well attended by both "regulars" and visitors.

Pat Phillips

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Serena Nathan on her new job in Bournemouth. Serena has been a member of LURC for many years and moved to Poole in March to be with family.

She will be greatly missed but we are excited for her with this new adventure. Our love, thanks and prayers go with Serena.

Follow Me



The sounds of the great hymns of celebration are dying away; the masses of spring flowers are confused by the weather; the chocolate eggs are eaten; the holidays are over and it's back to normal, back to routine, back to school, back to work. Yet, if our Easter celebrations have been true, nothing can ever be the same again, for Jesus Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Alleluia indeed!

Maybe the close friends of Jesus thought that it was back to normal again, after three years of uprooting, disturbing challenge and eventual tragedy. Their friend was dead, though rumour had it that he wasn't, and now they were back to the routine of life; back to their old fishing businesses; back to normality, if that was possible. Then it happened. They'd had a frustrating night's fishing and caught nothing, when a stranger appeared on the shore.

A stranger who started interfering and giving them instructions, 'Cast the net on the other side,' he cried out (John 21:6). Perhaps the question to ask at this point is, who were the expert fishermen here, the disciples or the stranger on the shore?

But the amazing answer to that conundrum is solved of course when John, the disciple whom Jesus loved, recognises the stranger; none other than their risen Lord. (John 21:7)

What a morning it was. They hauled in the catch, secured the boats, had a meal with their Master, and then Jesus had a deep and meaningful conversation with Peter. A conversation that ended with just two words that seemed to echo across the lake and bounce back from the encircling hills. Two words that have echoed right through history so that we can hear them clearly today - two words: 'Follow me'. They're words that have transformed countless lives over many generations and which surely challenge us in the 21st century - 'Follow me'.

In the Bible there are different understandings of the meaning of God's call; with a call to keep pure and untainted from the world at one extreme, to the call to fully share God's love with the entire world at the other. Well, here the gospel writer makes it clear, that the call is to go into the world and tell the good news of the risen Christ.

Yet there is an important distinction between the work of fishing for fish and fishing for people. The fish are caught to die and be eaten; the people are found to receive new life in all its fullness.

To be a friend of Jesus and to follow him is the richest, fullest, most satisfying and most free way of living. You and I are called to go, to share, to proclaim, and to introduce people to our Master in order that they too may truly live in the freedom and joy of his love.

Will it be easy? Not at all. As Jesus says in the gospel, 'anyone who wants to be a follower of mine must take up his cross and come with me' (Mark 8:34). The story of Christian witness down the centuries is one of service and suffering, but the amazing thing is that God is able to take this service and suffering, and use it mightily for the work of his kingdom, and for the fulfilment of his people. There is no fruit without toil; no victory without struggle; no success without sacrifice; no progress without hard work; no resurrection without a cross.

Here, then is the ongoing invitation of resurrection, the invitation from a risen Christ who says, "Come and follow me".

I wonder, what's your response?

Yours in the love of the risen Christ,

Simon Franklin

Spring is springing!

It's time to get growing now that temperatures are rising. What's the first consideration? Just as the sower in the Bible found out (Matthew 13: 1-8), the best results are always obtained by using a good growing medium. The modern equivalent is a quality multi-purpose compost. Hardy varieties can be sown directly into a bed, whilst half hardy varieties should be sown into a pot and then transplanted. Listed below are some you might like to try to add some summer colour to your beds (for more information read the seed packets):-

- **Candytuft:** *hardy 4"-6", soft pink and purple shades.*
- **Clarkia:** *hardy 15"-18", bright fiery colours.*
- **Cosmos:** *half hardy various heights, daisy-like mostly pink and white shades.*
- **Echium:** *half hardy 18", hairy leaves and, unusually, blue shades.*
- **Godetia:** *hardy 12"-15" fiery colours.*
- **Nigella ("Love in a Mist"):** *hardy 6' wispy flowers.*



Some annuals climb, e.g.:-

- **Ipomea ("Morning Glory"):** *half hardy 6'-8', blue, white or stripy.*
- **Nasturtium:** *half hardy 6'-8', also some dwarf varieties, fiery colours.*
- **Sweet Peas:** *mostly hardy annuals to sow in pots or bought as plug plants to climb or for hanging baskets – there is also an everlasting variety.*

Vegetables can be sown from early April onwards including:-

- **Lettuce varieties:** *buy "living lettuce" from supermarkets, then tease them out to produce "pick and pick again".*
- **Spinach:** *easy to grow in open ground, pots or troughs.*
- **Tomatoes:** *best grown in large pots, troughs or hanging baskets under cover to eliminate blight – never grow tomatoes near potatoes.*

If you have a greenhouse you can start to buy plugs to get ahead of the game, but you may have to heat them to avoid frost – maybe better to let garden centres look after them until all danger of frost is past.

Stuart Marsh

Tunes and Tea



Tunes and Tea, Lindfield URC Saturday 28th April at 3:00pm

The Perdido Players Swing Band return for their annual concert in Lindfield URC on Saturday 28th April at 3:00pm.

This year's theme is based on American Jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald, who would have been aged 101 on 25th April 2018. She died aged 79, but her legacy of being the First Lady of Song or the Queen of Jazz lives on.

Our programme will include songs and arrangements of many of her hit songs such as "The Man I Love", "Blue Skies", "The Lady is a Tramp", "Embraceable You" and many more. The band will play similar music of that period.

There is no charge for entry to the concert but there will be a retiring collection to support the work of St Peter and St James Hospice Community Nurses.

A refreshing cup of tea will be served at the interval.

If you would like to know more about the charitable aims of the Perdidos or about the forthcoming concert then please contact Peter Swann on 01444 450335 or refer to our website: <http://www.perdidoplayers.co.uk>

Memories of Billy Graham

“Someday you will read or hear that Billy Graham is dead. Don't believe a word of it. I shall be more alive than I am now. I will just have changed my address. I will have gone into the presence of God.”

Billy Graham

Following the death of Billy Graham on 21st February 2018, aged 99, this quote from him went viral, being tweeted at least every 15 seconds. Fittingly, Billy Graham based his quote on a similar one from his great hero, the 19th Century preacher and evangelist, Dwight Moody. It sums up Billy's confidence in the scriptural promise of eternity, a confidence he shared with so many in the UK, even within our own congregation, some of whom have kindly agreed to share their personal memories of Billy Graham below.

Good News Team



I'd rather have Jesus than anything

Heather Swann

As a child I was taken several times to Harringay and then later to Wembley Stadium and still have lasting memories of those occasions. The musical leadership of Cliff Barrows and particularly the singing of "I'd rather have Jesus than anything", by George Beverley Shea, have remained a constant challenge to me. Whilst my recollections of Billy's sermons are predominately "The Bible says" and "Get up out of your seats and come", it was tremendously moving to see people of all ages streaming from the aisles to commit their lives to the Lord as the choir sang "Just as I am".

Billy was a very faithful Christian who lived as he believed and was greatly used of God to introduce people to the Lord.

That night Jesus called me by name

Lydia Goodchild

My friend, Alison, invited me along to an evangelistic mission at Crystal Palace in June 1989. Along with thousands of others I heard Billy Graham speak about Jesus' love and his sacrifice made once and for all. That night Jesus called me by name and I asked Him to be my Lord and Saviour. In relationship with Him, I began to find answers to life's questions – an ongoing process!

Over the years I have had times of feeling close to Him and others further away but I know He isn't the one who has moved and that He longs for me to follow Him ever more closely. Life is uncertain and precarious but His presence, which is offered freely to all, is a secure foundation which brings comfort, hope and peace in a troubled world.

A seed was sown

Betty Billins

A coach was organised by The Sewell Mission (now the Evangelical Church) for a trip to hear Billy Graham at Harringay in 1954; a friend asked me to join her. The singing really impressed me. My friend felt the calling to go forward at the appropriate time. I remember thinking, "I hope she finds her way back to us", but she did.

I went a second time, cannot remember where to, but my main memory that time was the coach broke down so we were very late getting there. I do remember Billy Graham's loud, vibrant voice.

I came home on both occasions uplifted and I am sure a seed was sown.

A captivating preacher with a charismatic nature

Simon Franklin

1 1966 was an exciting year for a young East End boy, particularly one who enjoyed football and was looking forward to the World Cup football competition that, of course, England eventually won. However, for me, 1966 holds other special memories, including that of the great Christian evangelist Dr Billy Graham's Crusade.

In June 1966, the Billy Graham rallies were held in London's Earls Court. I was 14 years old and, even though I was fortunate to be part of a Christian family, I hadn't made a full commitment to our Lord at that time. Along with many others, I was taken to Earls Court in one of several coaches organised by my parents' church. I well remember the fascination and excitement of being part of the huge gathering and of seeing so many people answering the appeal or invitation to go forward at the end of the meeting. Billy Graham was a captivating preacher with a charismatic nature. I'd heard many sermons or addresses before expounding the gospel message, but I'd never heard anything quite like this. Statistics detail that some 18,000 people gathered each night at Earls Court and many thousands came to Christ.

However, my clearest and perhaps most cherished memory of Billy Graham wasn't at Earls Court.

During the 1966 crusade, one Sunday afternoon, again with my family and others from the church, I went along to Victoria Park East London. There Rev. David Sheppard (the former England cricketer) addressed an open air rally and invited Billy Graham to speak. This was a smaller, more intimate affair. Billy Graham spoke from what I think was the back of a flatbed lorry, but, as at Earls Court, he spoke with authority and passion as he shared the gospel.

It was a while before I accepted or acknowledged my own need for salvation, but I still hold those memories of Billy Graham's ministry very dear.

In 1966 England won the World Cup, but more importantly, through the preaching and witness of Billy Graham, a great evangelist, many souls were won for the Lord.

The Bible says

Peter Swann

Heather and I went to Earls Court to see Billy Graham. It was at the height of the Vietnam War and at the start of the rally the anti-war protestors raised their placards. They were quickly escorted from the arena by members of the Blue Lamp Fellowship. Bev Shea's singing of "I'd rather have Jesus" was very moving and, of course, Billy saying "the Bible says" whilst holding his Bible. In 1985 I attended another rally in Bristol, at Ashton Gate Stadium. I stood in the rain. I am afraid the rain dampened my spirit.

One could sense the presence of God

Jean Gardiner

What shall I wear? That was my immediate response to an invitation to hear Billy Graham at Harringay Arena. I was a young teenager and in the Church that I attended the ladies were expected to wear hats for any religious event. So, I decided to wear a beret and my school raincoat. That was settled and I set off to join the coach that was leaving from our Church in Bromley, Kent. The coach was full and we were all excited as to what was to come.

Later as we crowded into the arena one could feel the rising anticipation. We all joined in singing wonderful hymns and then Billy Graham came forward to preach. We all became quiet. Billy held his large black Bible aloft and repeatedly said, 'the Bible says: We had no doubt at all that we needed to make our peace with God through Jesus His Son. Billy invited people to come to the front as the choir sang softly, "Just as I am, without one plea, but that Thy blood was shed for me, and that thou bid'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come". And the people came. It was overwhelming to see hundreds of people of all ages wending their way to the front. It was emotional and solemn. One could sense the presence of God. I wanted to go forward but I had already given my life to Christ as an eight year old.

Yes, I was young, but now in my seventies I have never regretted putting Jesus first in my life.

Emmaus Encounter

The story of the two disciples walking the road between Jerusalem and Emmaus on the first Easter day is 'one of the immortal short stories of the world' (W. Barclay) and also a model for how we can meet him in our lives.

Hearts Opened. The disciples displayed 'downcast' faces, their hearts preoccupied with grief. They felt let down by God and bewildered by all they had heard. Their emotions prevented them recognising Jesus walking with them, even though their hearts burned within them. Despite our feelings, Jesus is still with us in situations of loss or desolation, as well as when we feel let down by God or other people.

Minds Opened. Although this pair knew the Scriptures, they didn't understand what they said about the Christ. Therefore, Jesus opened their minds to make sense of the events they were experiencing. The Holy Spirit also brings God's word alive for us, as He challenges our preconceptions about Jesus.

Eyes Opened. The couple only recognised Jesus when He broke the bread as they ate together. The turning point came when they invited Jesus into their home, and allowed Him to take charge. If we are to recognise Jesus' presence with us, we need to open our lives to Him.

Open eyes, minds and hearts will lead to open mouths. Having discovered Jesus, the disciples can't keep the news to themselves.

Rev Paul Hardingham (Parish Pump)

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.

Coffee is served after the morning service.

Holy Communion (4th Sunday)

At **6:30pm** Something Different. 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)
	7:30pm	In Touch (4th Tues) for women of all ages

Wed	2:30pm	The Fellowship (4th Wed) for men and women of all ages
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Thur	8:00pm	Church Meeting (2nd Thursday, Alternate Months)
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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
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The church is open on Tuesday (Concourse) 10:00am - Noon.

April Church diary

Apr 1st EASTER Sunday	10:00am	Easter Sunday	21st	8:45am	Three Churches
	6:30pm	Easter Praise Rev Keith Morrison	Saturday		Prayer Meeting, URC
4th Wednesday	11:30am 12:30am	Wednesday Worship Lunch Fellowship	22nd Sunday	10:00am	Communion Ros Thomas Christians Against Poverty (CAP)
5th Thursday		House Groups meet this week		6:30pm	Something Different Rev Keith Morrison
7th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, URC	24th Tuesday	7:30pm	In Touch
8th Sunday	10:00am	Family Worship Tim Griffiths	25th Wednesday	2:30pm	The Fellowship
	6:30pm	Something Different (Communion) Rev David Goodenough		7:30pm	Elders' Meeting
14th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, URC	26th Thursday	8:00pm	Church Prayer Meeting
	5:30pm	Games Evening	28th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, URC
15th Sunday	10:00am	Family Worship Rev Keith Morrison	29th Sunday	10:00am	Family Worship
	6:30pm	Evening Worship Including Ministry of Healing Rev Peter McIntosh		6:30pm	United Service Rev Keith Morrison
19th Thursday		House Groups meet this week			

YOUTH



Hello!

A Quick update from me... We are getting good numbers in our Anchors and Junior section, as well as Rooted and Pulse.

In Rooted, last term we were looking at the theme of 'God is', for example 'God is love', 'God is Light'. This term we have been looking at 'We are', for example 'We are saved' and 'We are forgiven'. We have had great conversations around these topics and many questions asked about God. It is great to see and hear that the young people want to know more about our faith.

I am still involved in the local schools and go into Oathall with other youth leaders from local churches to run their Christian union. Last week I counted about 28 students, which is about normal numbers. We are currently focusing on the fruit of the spirit, looking at one aspect per week this term. I also go into Lindfield, Blackthorns and St. Augustine's Primary schools to run assemblies.

For St. Augustine's, Keith, Jo Bloxham, Richard Walters and I go in with material from 'Open the book', and re-enact stories from the Bible. It is a fantastic way to help the Bible come alive for those in assembly.

Looking ahead, this month a group of us will be heading to Spring Harvest. The theme this year is 'Only the brave', looking at our lives as Christ's disciples. We will be looking at the book of James and exploring what it means to live as a disciple. Please pray for all those who go – that we would go with open hearts ready to meet with God.

After Easter, on Saturday 14th April, we will be having our next Family Games Evening. If you haven't come along to one yet, please do – it is a great time to relax and get to know each other whilst playing a whole selection of games. It also allows all generations to come together and have fun. It will run from 5:30-8:30 pm, and people can come along for all or some of that time.

Further ahead, we will be running another holiday club in the May half term. This will be for anyone aged 5 to 11. It will run in the afternoons of Tuesday 29th May to Friday 1st June, as well as having a round-off session on the morning of Sunday 3rd June. This year our theme will be 'Kingdom Builders' – learning how we, as disciples, can build God's Kingdom here in our community.

Please pray that God would guide us as we plan and that He would be preparing those He wants to attend. Please also consider if you can help for one or more afternoons and let me know if this would be a possibility.

Finally, looking even further ahead to September, Rooted and Pulse will be losing Ruth as a leader, and so will need one or two volunteers for the groups to be able to continue running them. We will also be needing helpers for our Lighthouse groups from September, so please pray that God would provide leaders for these positions, and also consider if you would be able to fill one of them.

Once again, thank you all for your prayers and support.

Danny



All Age Games Night!

Who: Everyone!

Where: Lindfield United Reformed Church

When: Saturday 14th April, 5.30pm to 8.30pm

Snacks and drinks will be available during the evening.

Feel free to bring a friend or two!
Parents are responsible for their own children.

Come and have fun!

PAGES

A month of sport



April is quite a month if you enjoy sport. The 21st Commonwealth Games takes place on Australia's Gold Coast from 4th to 15th April. It should be another exciting and memorable "Friendly Games". About the same time as they hold their closing ceremony, much nearer to home about 12,000 runners in Sussex will be lining up for the 9th annual Brighton Marathon on 15th April. One of those running is our own Alex Hall, who ran the Brighton 10K last year and decided to aim further this year! Alex shared some thoughts on his training with us and you can see a map of one of his training runs, courtesy of the Strava App. It might look like he was lost, but quite a few loops were necessary to achieve the 15.1 miles!

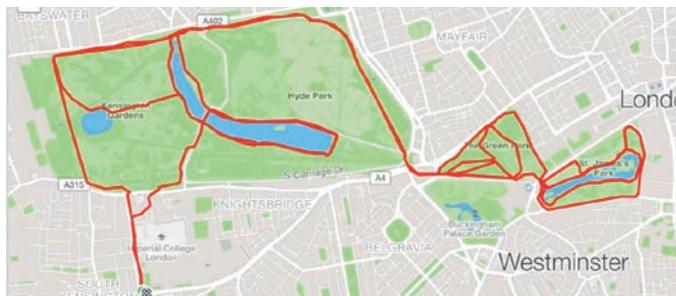
"Training for the Brighton Marathon has proven a big challenge! I really find it difficult to get out of a nice warm bed to go running first thing, though the reward is seeing a beautiful sunrise over London as I wind my way through the Royal Parks at the centre of the city.

As I prepare for April, I admire more and more those people who manage to hold to their plan with dedication and self-discipline (something I am struggling to achieve!). It is no surprise then that passages from the Bible frequently compare the journey of faith to that of a training and competing athlete. May God give us the strength to apply this level of dedication and commitment in all that we do!" – Alex Hall

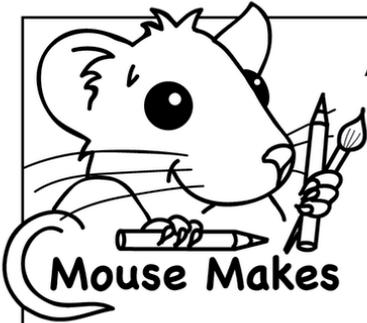
We wish you Godspeed Alex!!

Martin Hall

Those of you interested in how sport can be used as Christian outreach are encouraged to take a look at the Christians in Sport website: www.christiansinsport.org.uk



**15.1 miles ran
in 2 hrs 23 min 13 secs
with 2,243 calories
burnt!!**



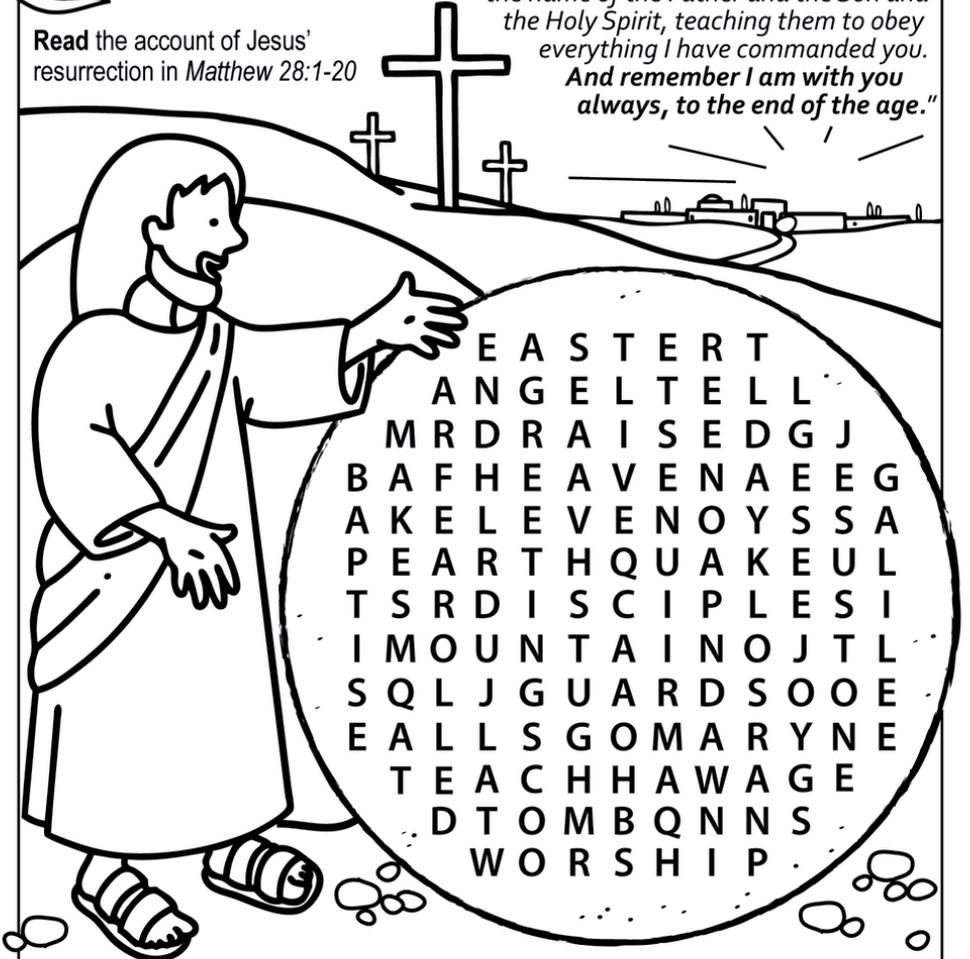
Mouse Makes

Read the account of Jesus' resurrection in *Matthew 28:1-20*

JESUS IS ALIVE!

After Jesus had been raised from the dead He met Mary and Mary Magdalene "Greetings," He said, "Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee. They will see me there."

When the disciples met Jesus in Galilee He said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. **And remember I am with you always, to the end of the age."**



Can you find these words from the story in the word search above? EASTER • DAWN DAY • MARY • TOMB • EARTHQUAKE • ANGEL • HEAVEN • ROLLED • STONE • GUARDS JESUS • RAISED • FEAR • JOY • RAN • GREETINGS • TELL • DISCIPLES • SEE • ELEVEN GALILEE • MOUNTAIN • WORSHIP • ALL • GO • MAKE • BAPTISE • TEACH • END • AGE

A tale of two churches

I was prompted to write about the two churches I recently visited in Devon as, hopefully, an encouraging counter to the depressing stream of statistics that we are regularly subjected to about the state of Christianity in Britain today. For example, we are told that while UK Church membership was 10.6 million (30% of the population) in 1930 it was only 5.5 million (11.2%) in 2010. Likewise, the URC had some 188,300 members in 1980, but the figure for 2015 was so small that I could not read it off the graph I was studying! It was apparently about 56,000 in 2015, but less than 50,000 in 2017. Finally, a survey in 2017 found that, of more than 4,000 respondents who claimed to be Christian, apparently 29% of them never pray, 33% never attend church and 55% never read the Bible – a strange understanding of what it is to be Christian (source: Church Mapping Survey, March 2017, ComRes).

However, there are glimmers of hope. While Methodist numbers fell by 15% from 2008 to 2013, the numbers in the congregations of the New Frontiers Church rose by 15% over the same period. Helen and I worshipped at Grace Church in Exeter in January on a family visit. Although now forging its own path as a community church, it started in 2003 as a New Frontiers Church. Believing that the Church is about people rather than buildings they have worshipped over the years in a number of halls and we met with them in a school hall.

However, it is no simple task to regularly transform a sports hall into a place of worship – as we found out when we helped pack up hundreds of chairs, tons of floor coverings and miles of electrical cables at the end of the service! The worship was powerful and the preaching of Pastor Stu Alred was excellent, based on the gifts of ministry that are discussed by Paul in his letter to the Ephesians 4: vs 4-14. It included a very helpful table showing how the five different types of ministry (Apostolic, Prophetic, Evangelistic, Pastoral and Teaching) are represented by very different types of people, all contributing different skills that, together, unite to help build up the body of Christ on earth.

A second church we visited, St Andrew's in Moretonhampstead, was, from the outside, a complete contrast, being a typical old English country church. Despite the cold weather, on the inside there was a real feeling of warmth, welcome and scriptural activity, reflected in the message on its web site: "We are an inclusive church in the tradition of a worshipping community that has occupied this site on Dartmoor since about AD 1100." There was a lovely script in a frame inside that read: "Welcome to this ancient place; we invite you to say a prayer as you come in, and we offer you GOD'S Blessing as you leave. May the love of God be with you always."

Adverts for 'Messy Church' confirmed the community outreach of this church. Their monthly magazine is called 'In Touch' and you can read it on their website – I was amused by the March letter from their Rector, Simon Franklin, calling for more eccentrics. This story related to his friend, vicar of a church in Sandwich, who was nearly arrested when the Police were called after he was heard shouting "Christ is risen" at the top of his voice one Easter Sunday, from the top of the church tower! Sadly we had no opportunity to worship there but we have to leave something for the next visit to Devon!

So, a tale of two churches, very different in many ways, but also very similar with their message of the importance of being in the community, of God's blessing and both providing such encouraging evidence that the body of Christ, the "church", is alive and well in Britain today.

Martin Hall

Grace Church:

<http://www.gracechurchexeter.org/>

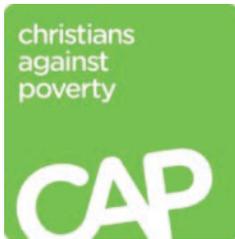
St Andrew's Church:

<http://moretonhampsteadparishchurch.org/>

Ministry Types & Passions

Ministry Type	Apostolic	Prophetic	Evangelistic	Pastoral	Teaching
Broadest definition	Sent ones	Seeing & telling	Bringing good news	Caring for others	Explaining & enlightening
Examples	The Twelve, Paul, Priscilla and Aquila	Anna & Simeon, Phillips daughters	The Samaritan Women	Barnabas	Apollos
Usually love...	New challenges	Being alone, listening, waiting	Sharing faith with others	One to ones, hospitality, sharing burdens	Reading, teaching, helping others to understand
Possible secular examples	Entrepreneurs	Artists, creatives, musicians	PR, sales, campaigners	Counsellors, social workers	Teachers, trainers, lecturers
Core question	Are we leading people to their destiny?	Are we hearing from God?	Are people coming to faith in Jesus?	Are people being cared for?	Are we immersed in Scripture?
Immaturity can lead to...	Trying a new initiative every week	Becoming critical of others	Neglecting the rest of life	Failing to move people on	Not moving beyond knowledge

Mission News



Christians Against Poverty

www.capuk.org

We continue our mission focus on Christians Against Poverty (CAP) this month.

CAP exists because it believes nobody should be held hostage by debt and poverty. It is passionate about releasing people in our nation from a life sentence of debt, poverty and their causes. Through its services, which are all run through local churches, it is tackling poverty head on. CAP's vision is to bring freedom and good news to people in every community through 1,000 CAP projects by 2021.

Please see our article in last month's Good News magazine and the mission display on the church concourse for more information or contact one of the Missions Group team – Jean Gardiner, Terry Oliver, Lesley Sparks, Alex Hall and Helen Hall.

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

Lindfield URC – Operation Mobilisation Weekend: 15 & 16 September 2018

“And Jesus said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature’”.

Mark 16.15

For the weekend of 15 and 16 September the Missions Group and OM have organized a weekend of events at the Church from 2:30pm on the Saturday through to mid-day on the Sunday.

On the Saturday afternoon, from 2:30pm, there will be a learning experience with OM conducting a workshop on how we share our faith in our daily lives. From the injunction to “spread the Gospel at all times, sometimes with words” the Missions Group have suggested that the OM team address the “sometimes with words”. In order that those with families can attend there will be suitable activity arranged for children too young to go to the workshop.

From 5:00pm there will be a time of fellowship with a short reception followed by a family-friendly two-course hot supper at 5:30pm.

After we have finished eating, a team of young people (The OM Presentation Team), newly returned from short assignments in the global mission field, will share their experiences with us.



At the Sunday Morning service Simon Lunt, an old-boy of our BB Company, will return, after a gap of a good number of years, to preach. Through the Church Mission Fund we support Simon and his wife, Becky, in their work with OM UK (London) in North-East London, ministering to the Middle Eastern communities living there. During the service there will be some sharing of the work both of this mission and also the, Church supported, OM team in Kosovo. Kosovo is the most desperately poor of European countries and presents massive challenges.

There will be an opportunity to hear rather more about this work after coffee when, of course, questions can be asked. The weekend takes place during the two-month Mission Giving period allocated to the OM work in Kosovo.

The Presentation Team will go out during the morning service and talk about their experiences to the older children.

Our Minister's vision for Mission is that, in addition to the essential work of prayer and providing financial support, the Church should engage more with the missions we support. The weekend is the outcome of the discussions that Keith and Missions Group have had over the past year with OM on this vision. We all hope it will be the start of a much greater engagement of our Church with the work of OM.

More information on what is planned will be forthcoming over the coming months but please speak to a member of the Missions Group if you would like to know more.

Can you help? OM has asked whether we have any volunteers able to host its team members on the Saturday night. Please speak to a member of the Missions Group if this is something you feel called to offer.

As always, we would like to thank you for your faithful support of missions whether through prayer, giving in time and/or financial support.

Missions Group

Jonathan Veira

East Grinstead welcomes Jonathan Veira's "Songs of Freedom"

Jonathan Veira, renowned Bass Baritone, returns to East Grinstead after a 12-year absence on Saturday 5th May 2018. He will be performing his "Songs of Freedom" one-man show at the Jubilee Community Centre, Charlwoods Road at 7:30pm with all proceeds going to Prison Fellowship.

For more than twenty years Jonathan Veira has built a solid reputation as "one of our best buffo (comic) basses" (Daily Telegraph). Working in many of the world's leading opera houses, he has performed a wide range of comic roles and is described by Glyndebourne as one of their most loved artists.

Jonathan, who can sing in seven languages, is also that rare thing: an accomplished opera singer who has made the crossover into popular music and still retained his credibility.



JONATHAN VEIRA

An unforgettable evening of music and laughter in support of Prison Fellowship England & Wales

SONGS OF FREEDOM

SAT, 5 MAY @ 7:30 PM
JUBILEE COMMUNITY CHURCH
EAST GRINSTEAD

TICKETS AVAILABLE, £10

prisonfellowship.org.uk/jvtour | Val Maynard – 07846 201277

Thoroughly adept on keyboard and guitar and sounding completely at home in a range of styles and sounds; from Louis Armstrong ("What A Wonderful World") to Billy Joel, to Gershwin, to Eric Bibb ("Want Jesus To Walk With Me").

Jonathan is also known to do an impressive Van Morrison, Bob Dylan and even Coldplay! In-between each song, this Guildford-based husband and father quickly wins the hearts of his audience with his convivial, down-to-earth personality.

Totally relaxed, Jonathan recounts unlikely anecdotes from his personal and professional life, mixing them with such a constant stream of humour that it's easy to imagine him earning his living as a full time stand-up comedian.

The big man from Harlesden with the Portuguese surname and St Vincent family roots is an able mimic - he does a great Elton John impersonation! He may, perhaps, be at his funniest when singing not-so-clever country and western tunes. At times it is easy to forget that Jonathan's operatic successes have included Don Magnifico for the Royal Swedish Opera and the Royal Danish Operas; leading roles for English National Opera; Frank in Die Fledermaus, the wicked stepfather Don Magnifico in La Cenerentola by Rossini and Father Augustine in Betrothal in a Monastery, all for the Glyndebourne Festival Opera.

Why not have an evening of song, good humour and help Prison Fellowship's work with prisoners and their families?

Tickets for the 5th May Prison Fellowship benefit concert are available at £10 each from EventBrite, online: <https://jvtour-eastgrinstead.eventbrite.co.uk>



Anyway

People are unreasonable, illogical, self-centered
...love them anyway.

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives
...do good anyway.

If you are successful, you win false friends and true enemies
...be successful anyway.

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow
...do good anyway.

Honesty and frankness will make you vulnerable
...be honest and frank anyway.

People love underdogs but follow only top dogs
...follow some underdog anyway.

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight
...build anyway.

People really need help but may attack you if you try to help
...help people anyway.

If you give the world the best you have, you may get kicked in the teeth
...but give the world the best you have ...ANYWAY

Mother Teresa was said to have had this poem framed and hung in the lobby of her orphanage for children in Calcutta. It was based on a composition, "The Paradoxical Commandments", written by Kent Keith, a 19-year old Harvard student, 50 years ago in 1968.

That Mother Teresa, a woman for whom he had a lot of respect, thought his poem was important enough to use as she did had a huge impact on Kent.

(Thanks to Anne Parker for making Good News aware of this poem)

Phonebook

Keith Morrison (Minister)

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Normal day off Friday

Danny Goodall (Youth Pastor)

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Mobile 07443 438970
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Normal day off Saturday

Church Secretary

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

Treasurer

Paul Bloxham 01444 483672

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

April

1st Easter Sunday Heather Swann

8th Anne Parker Iris Bingham

15th Carol Walters Fiona Tingley

22nd House Group -
Graham Campling Sue Tester

29th Boys Brigade Carol Marsh

May

6th Wedding Flowers Meta Orchin

13th Fiona Tingley Jo Bloxham

20th Janet Wade Iris Bingham

27th Zoe McQuillin Heather Swann

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 7th April

2:00pm Lindfield Horticultural Society in King Edward Hall
Spring Show of Flowers and Produce

Wednesday 11th April

12:15pm Tiger Arts - Lunch at Lindfield URC

1:00pm Concert at Lindfield URC :
Robinswood 5-piece all male local band

8:00pm Lindfield Horticultural Society in King Edward Hall
Talk: "The Chelsea Physic Garden" by Nick Bailey

Wednesday 25th April

8:00pm Lindfield Preservation Society in King Edward Hall
AGM followed by talk, "Lindfield wells" by Peter Hinze

Thursday 26th April

7:30pm Village Film Night in King Edward Hall
"The Darkest Hour" (PG), tickets from Tufnells

Saturday 28th April

7:45pm HH Music Society, St Wilfrid's Church HH
National Youth Jazz Ambassadors perform an evening of
well-loved jazz classics from the Great American Songbook
Tickets: £12 members/ £15 non-members.
Under 18/Student £3.00/£5.00.
Available from Carousel Music, HH, or on the door.



Lindfield

United Reformed Church

www.lindfieldurc.org.uk