

Winter 2018/19

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Bible verse of the month

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 NIV









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

goodnews@lindfieldurc.org.uk



Editorial

What lovely thoughts our Minister puts in his letter, regarding a different, and special sort of New Year. Do read how we can be encouraged by Keith's letter.

Peter Swann gives us information on when the Traditional Carol Concert is to be held, with the Perdido Players Carol Band who always bring so much festive cheer to the evening. A warm welcome will await you.

It is interesting that Harry writes about his New Year memories when he lived in Scotland, do share these. I hope that you find in Good News, information of what will be happening in our Church. I hope you may want to join us. See how many Hot Chocolate drinks were served on bonfire night, and it was so good to welcome people. Our Church is to open in December, on Monday and Friday afternoons so if you want a quiet time or just a chat do pop in to see us.

On behalf of all our Good News Team, may we wish you a Christmas and New Year which will be peaceful and blessed by our Lord.

Anne

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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

'd like to wish you all a Happy New Year! "What," some of you might exclaim, "It's not even Christmas yet!" It is not that I'm rushing ahead, or thinking of the January readers of the Good News double issue. No, I am thinking of December, for the Christian year starts with the first Sunday of Advent, and in 2018 that falls on Sunday the second day of December.

Our Christian year begins with expectation and preparation; four Sundays of not simply waiting for Christmas but getting ready for the coming of the Christ. But what do we do to get ready? For many families the idea of getting ready at this time of year is limited to putting up decorations and ordering the food, but I would hope within the fellowship of the church, within Christ's own family, there is something more to it. We need to prepare our hearts by considering the kingdom of God and how we might relate to the coming kingdom.

We can think of how we are meant to live by looking at the life of Jesus. We could perhaps make a start by thinking of what we might see in the nativity; Luke's Gospel describes a lowly maiden, a small village, a manger for a bed, and shepherds on a hillside. Through it all there is a simple sense of sawdust and straw, not turkey and tinsel. It is all humble and we should be too.

In his time of ministry we see Jesus interacting with people who are struggling in their life - some through sickness or grief, and some who are rejected by society due to their lifestyle or occupation; Jesus always has time for them, shares meals with them, and gives them hope. There are some characters too that say they want to come to Jesus but their personal choices push them away - when it is suggested to a rich man to sell all possessions and give the proceeds to the poor, the man does not. This man would rather have treasure on earth than treasure in heaven (Mark 10). We see here in Jesus a sense of priority for others rather than one's self being reauired.

The accounts of Christ's passion add further to the humility and priority that are known to be in him. Pilate questions the man before him as to whether he is "the king of the Jews", the truth is of course that Jesus is King of all the Earth.

Yet this King, who had arrived in the city of Jerusalem on a colt, allows himself to be beaten and nailed to the cross, a punishment for no sin that he had committed himself; a torture and death he did not deserve, but through this brokenness and bloodshed our price is paid. We can be forgiven and receive new life.

Jesus' kingdom is of humility and compassion, of mercy and grace, and as people of the kingdom we need these attributes to shine in our daily life. As we get ready to mark the gift to the world of God the Father's only son, prepare your heart to live his way.

May you all have a Happy New Year, A Happy Christmas, and a Happy 2019 (when it comes).

Your minister,

Kpith

Family News

Christmas Lunch

Just a reminder that the Lunch Fellowship will be holding their Christmas Lunch on the 5th December at 12.30pm. Don't forget you can also attend the Wednesday Worship at 11.30am if you come early !

There were many absentees last month, so if you can remind those who come to sign up, that would greatly help catering arrangements.

Many thanks and we look forward to seeing you all. For more details or to book your lunch please call :

Sue Gooch (455057)

New Address

Barbara Shepherd has settled in well in her new home. Her address is:

Westall House, Birch Grove Road, Horsted Keynes. Tel. 01825 790189

URC T-shirts

f anyone has one of the Outreach T-shirts used on Village Day please may you return it to Jacquie Odell. Thank you.

Family News

Condolences

We extend our love and sincere sympathy to the families of Vera Dorton and Elsie Anderson, who both passed away recently. Each of these dear ladies have battled courageously with ill health for a number of years, so for them, to be home with their Lord and Saviour is a happy release.

Vera, a very gentle and caring Christian lady, has been in Membership here until the time of her death. Elsie moved away to be near to her family, but has remained in touch with close friends. Both had very caring and supportive families, and will be missed by them and all of us who had the pleasure of knowing them.

Fo Tingley

In Touch

Our meeting in October was our film night when we watched "Finding your feet " A very entertaining film with an excellent cast including Imelda Staunton and Celia Imrie. The evening was well supported and much enjoyed by everyone.

Our next meeting will be in the New Year when we have our Christmas meal. Please watch out for details about this on the notice board and the Sunday news sheets nearer the time.

Meanwhile we wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and see you in the New Year.

Janet Wade

Christmas Postbox

Collowing last month's article, this is just a gentle reminder that the last posting date for your cards is Friday, December 15th, and they will be available for collection on Sundays 16th and 21st.

The proceeds will go to Turning Tides (formerly known as the Worthing Churches Homeless Project.)



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Doors Open!

We are excited to announce that, from the beginning of December, the church will be open from 2pm to 3pm on Monday and Friday each week. We hope that church members and people from the community alike will welcome a place to come for quiet reflection or a chat over refreshments.

During December there will be a children's quiz and opportunities to reflect and pray using the Christmas Knitivity characters. There will be Christmas stories to read and reflect upon. There will be the opportunity to help others through donations to the food bank and Turning Tides.

During January we will continue to collect donations to help those struggling in the winter months. As the New Year starts there will be spaces for reflection and prayer around the themes of New Beginnings and Hope.

We hope to offer everyone a warm welcome from Lindfield United Reformed Church.

Joy to the world

By Dorothy Brown

Joy for the world. Morning has broken, light in the sky Baby is sleeping, shepherds are nigh. So we remember, so we are told, Gifts will be coming, Myrrh Spice and Gold.

Difficulties pending, flight to escape, So like the present, freedom at stake. Have we progressed far? World all at peace? Lord give us wisdom? Let the wars cease.

As we remember, so let us pray. World still in turmoil, show us the way Food for the hungry, shelter for all. Merciful Saviour, answer our call.



Jacquie Odell

The Shepherds Tale

t was very cold that night out in the fields. Sheep were restless, was there a wild animal about? We kept good watch, longing for time to pass until morning- a sudden light in the sky-lightning? Perhaps there was a storm brewing, it grew and grew and we were huddled together, even more so when the light blinded us and we began to hear voices, at least one voice so loud and clear.

It seemed to be telling us about a baby, what's more, that we should leave our sheep and go and visit this baby now! The amazing thing was, we could not seem to stop ourselves going. We did leave one man behind, he had to miss the excitement, but the sheep must be guarded. The rest of us set out blindly as it seemed, but we really did follow this star and eventually came to an old stable- lots of those about. This one was different though, we just sort of rushed in, very curious we were. Well, I could hardly believe my eyes. There were lots of animals about, of course, with all the noise, mess and muddle, but there in the middle of them, this young girl, looking pretty exhausted but strangely calm, with a tiny baby wrapped in rags and lying on some straw in the cattle manger. Her husband was there as well, looking very protective and very worried as well, especially when we all crowded in.

It was strange though, because it was very light there although it was pitch dark outside. It almost seemed that the light was coming from around the manger. Jo took off his neckerchief and gave it to them to help wrap the baby. I had only a crust to give, not much, but they were hungry.

We found ourselves kneeling down. We knew this was something special, as if the whole world could change because of this tiny baby-could it really be so?

Dorothy Brown

Beacons of Light

suspect many of you will recognise this picture. It is the "Christmas Tree" at Wakehurst Place. Apparently, the tallest living Christmas Tree in the UK, it is a beacon that shines light far and wide, visible from many viewpoints across the area. It is a beacon of shining light, and that's exactly what we should be this Christmas, too.

So many occasions have now been taken over by the drive of commercialisation. There is a tendency for people to get swept up in this momentum without any real thought as to what they are celebrating. And no doubt for many the same is true of Christmas, participating in the celebration swept along by the tide, without pausing to consider the real reason for doing so. The difference is that in understanding the true meaning of Christmas, hopefully people would want to celebrate it all the more.

So we need to be beacons of light to illuminate the meaning of Christmas; the celebration of His light coming into the World. We do not need a deep theological understanding; child like acceptance is sufficient;

Advent is, by definition, a time of preparation. Traditionally marked with Advent Candles symbolising Expectation, turning to Hope, then Joy and finally His light in the World. But as we progress through Advent towards Christmas, let us not just prepare for Christmas, but remember Christmas itself is a preparation. Christmas, as the time we celebrate the miraculous birth of Jesus, God sending His son to Earth, marks the start of the preparation for His life on earth, through to Easter. It is also a reminder that just as they were preparing for His birth 2000 years ago, we should also be preparing for His coming again with that same Expectation, Hope and Joy.

We invite you therefore to come and join us and, as we celebrate, to be beacons of light, illuminating the truth of Christmas, the Birth of Jesus, coming to be His light to shine on the World, preparing to be our Saviour. Jeremy Campling

Hot Chocolate

With Guy Fawkes making his annual November 5th visit to Lindfield Common, the High street was overflowing with locals and visitors to see the parade and fireworks. Passing as they do the front door of Lindfield URC it was another opportunity to meet the public and greet them with a gift of Hot Chocolate and to encourage some to step inside the Church for the first time.



Some from the team of Hot Chocolatiers are shown here were on an early shift implementing the logistics with others preparing and delivering at the front of the Church to whoever accepted the offer of one of the 1,075 hot chocolates prepared. With a crowd outside our front door, the enthusiastic servers encouraged folk to enjoy a hot drink while a light display in the window above the church doors highlighted what was happening.

The emergency services Fire, Police and NHS personnel as in previous years, took the opportunity to enjoy a hot chocolate from LURC. Note the fireman returning to his engine with a Hot Chocolate.



Outreach Group

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What Christmas means

The word Christmas means Christ's Mass, the celebration of Jesus' Birthday or Christ's Birthday.

When I was young, Christmas was about Santa and what he would bring. I was really excited. I knew that if I didn't go to sleep Santa would not come, yet I still found it difficult sleeping. I would wake at about 5.00 a.m., have a quick feel of the pillowcase and go back to sleep until about 6.45 a.m.

But then when I became a Christian, yes there is excitement, but it's different. Presents take second place, normally opened after the Queen's speech.



The Greatest Gift of all is Jesus, who came into the world to save us from every bad thought and deed by his death on that terrible cross. Thanks God for Jesus this Christmas.

God bless you all,

Cliff Griffiths

Christmas Sudoku

To keep your brain engaged during the Christmas and New Year break we have devised a new Christmas Sudoku, rated as "challenging"!

All you have to do is fill the empty cells so that each 3x3 box, each row and each column contains all of the nine characters found in the Christmas phrase CAROLSUNG - Enjoy!

	Ν		S		R			
U		R					Ν	
	S			G	0			
L					U	G U		R
		Ο				U		
S		U	L					Ν
			U	S			G	
	Α					0		С
			Α		G		L	

The answer is on page 30

Donations Food Bank and Turning Tides

It is more blessed to give
than receive.
f

Acts 20:35

A re you able to help provide practical support to people who are homeless and those battling poverty and hunger through the festive period and beyond?

Before and after the Sunday and Wednesday services, on Village night and each Monday and Friday afternoon in December and January between 2pm and 3pm there will an opportunity to place items in a donation box collecting items for the local Foodbank and Turning Tides (formerly Worthing Churches Homeless project). The local food bank would also like to receive nappies, baby wipes, sanitary wear, long life milk, long life fruit juice, sugar, tinned or long life custard, rice pudding, tinned meat, fish, fruit, vegetables and soup, jam, savoury and sweet biscuits and toilet rolls.

Money donations are also welcome so that some fresh foods can be purchased or you can donate by visiting the donations pages of the charities themselves.

> If this service proves helpful then we hope to continue to be a permanent collection site throughout the year.

If anyone is able to help transport the items to the food bank or to Turning Tides please see Jacquie Odell.

Thank you

Outreach group

These are the items required by Turning Tides:

Items we are current	
	Cereal bowls
Cereals (no cornflakes or porridge)	Black sacks
Cooking sauces	Washing powder/tabs
Ketchup, brown sauce, salad cream	Washing up brustles
Cooking oil	Dishwasher tabs
Squashes	Toilet bleach
Tre and coffee	Floor cleaner
Jeans/trousers 34" waist	Sanatizer sprays
Hoodies	Pump hand soap
Boxer shorts	Shampoo
Ladies undies 12/14	Shower gel
Washing powder	
Saucepans	

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Mission Update



he focus for the Mission in November/December is Turning Tides – whose strapline is "ending local homelessness". Turning Tides is a local charity, previously known as the Worthing Churches Homeless Projects. It rebranded and changed its name in October this year. Speaking to the Argus newspaper, Chief Executive John Holmstrom said: "I hope that the new name and logo emphasizes the power we have as a community to change and turn the tide of homelessness. The name is both meaningful and evocative - it carries a message of hope and profound change." A former homeless client said, "I absolutely love the name Turning Tides. Anybody who has reached the bottom feels hopeless. So it is like the promise of a future - it gives the message of hope".

With projects now Worthing, in Littlehampton. Horsham and the surrounding areas, Turning Tides started in 1992 as a group of Christians to help local people out of sleeping rough. The churches gifted buildings and volunteers. They soon began to make a difference! They learned however, that it was not enough just to find a roof. Often there are complex needs such as mental ill health and the challenges of addiction. Others joined from the community (of all faiths or no faith) and Turning Tides became more professional as a strong local homelessness charity.

Unfortunately, local people continue to sleep rough. There is minimal help for homeless men and women in the surrounding areas of Worthing and into Mid-Sussex. Turning Tides remains determined to end homelessness. The Charity has continued to grow in strength, funding and volunteer support.

How would a homeless person possibly feel?

Without hope Lonely Cold and exposed Afraid Forgotten Sad Unloved Vulnerable Ignored

Finally, a passage from Mother Teresa's book 'The Joy in Loving': "The very fact that God has placed a certain soul in our way is a sign that God wants us to do something for him or her. It is not by chance; It has been planned by God. We are bound by conscience to help him or her."

Sally and Simon Ross-Clark

Wider World Bangladesh

Following the widespread protests in Pakistan about the release of the Christian mother, Asia Bibi, who was accused of blasphemy but finally released after ten or so years in prison, Bangladesh's Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina said that anyone in her country who said anything offensive about Islam or against the Prophet Mohammed would be prosecuted according to the law.

She did, however, speak out against Islamist extremists saying that there is no place for Islamic militancy or corruption. She said that she wants to show that Islam is a religion of peace and that Bangladesh will be a peaceful, prosperous and developed country.

While the Christian community are concerned about the comments, the charity Open Doors says that believers are more worried about the fact that there are elections taking place this month and a cross-party coalition is looking to unseat the Prime Minister who claims to run a secular country.

The coalition includes a radical Islamist party and the Christians are afraid that if this party wins, their lives may become more difficult. Bangladesh is number 41 on the open Doors World Watch List. Attacks on Christians there are said to have increased over the past three years.

Portsmouth

A brand new church is being constructed near Portsmouth because the congregation has outgrown the old one! The new building will accommodate the worshippers at Locks Heath Free Church as well as benefitting the wider community.

The work has been planned for over eight years, and now, having bought the land, the building work can start. The project has been funded through personal gifts from the church family, the sale of church property, fund-raising activities, grants and a large mortgage (paid for by the congregation).

The new building will have an auditorium seating 500, a sports hall, café, large foyer and staff offices. There will also be a separate 180-seat auditorium, several multi-purpose rooms a pre-school area and a youth suite.

The church's newsletter states, "After over eight years of prayer, planning, giving, fund-raising, legal work meetings, emails, telephone conversations, being overwhelmed, miracles, prophetic words, simply persevering, more meetings and more prayer, it has actually started!"

They ask for prayer for the workers and "that our conversations, hope and focus remain firmly fixed on Jesus." What a wonderful example of faith and perseverance Locks Heath Church shows to us all. We wish them well and may God prosper their work.

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Carol Marsh



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
Thur	8:00pm	Church Meeting (2nd Thursday, Alternate Months)
Fri	5:00pm	Rooted(Years 2-5)
	7:00pm	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.

December Church diary

1st Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints	16th Sunday	10:00am 6:30pm	Rev Keith Morrison
2nd Sunday	10:00am 6:30pm	Family Worship Rev Keith Morrison Something Different Rev Keith Morrison	20th Thursday	7:30pm	Traditional Carol Concert
4th Tuesday	6:00pm	Village Night	23rd Sunday	10:00am 6:30pm	Rev Keith Morrison
5th Wednesday		Wednesday Worship Rev Keith Morrison Lunch Fellowship	24th Monday	4:00pm	Crib Service
8th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints	Christmas Eve 25th Tuesday	10:00am	Christmas Day Celebration Rev Keith Morrison
9th Sunday	10:00am 6:30pm	Family Worship Rev Keith Morrison Something Different	Christmas Day		
14th		Rev Keith Morrison	29th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints
Friday	4.00pm	Messy Church	30th	10:00am	Family Worship
15th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints	Sunday		Stuart Dew

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1st Tuesday New Years Day	10:00am ~noon	Church open for prayer	19th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, URC
2nd Wednesday		Wednesday Worship Rev Keith Morrison Lunch Fellowship	20th Sunday	10:00am 6:30pm	Rev Mike Gardiner
5th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, URC	22nd Tuesday	6:30pm	In Touch Meal
	10:00am	Family Worship			
6th Sunday	6:30pm	Rev Keith Morrison Something Different Rev Keith Morrison	23rd Wednesday		The Fellowship Elders Meeting
10th Thursday	8:00pm	Church Meeting	24th Thursday	8:00pm	Church Prayer Meeting
12th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, URC	26th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, URC
13th Sunday		Family Worship Rev Keith Morrison Communion Rev Keith Morrison	27th Sunday	10:00am 6:30pm	Rev Keith Morrison

YOUTH PAGES

DURACELL

Hellol

The phrase 'Batteries Not Included' always reminds me of Christmas. Or perhaps, more accurately, the run up to Christmas when the adverts begin to play on TV.

I remember, as a child, being very excited that Christmas was on the way when the first Christmas advert came on describing the newest gadget to have – even though it would have probably been October! At the end of these adverts was a list on terms and conditions including the phrase 'Batteries Not Included'.

This year, however, as the Christmas adverts have begun, the phrase 'Batteries Not Included' does not appear as much anymore. The reason for this is because we now are able to buy gadgets with batteries already in – in fact, we can often no longer take them out! Instead of having to buy batteries for the gadgets, they now come with a charger cable so that we can re-charge them. Christmas Day afternoon is often spent with new technology plugged into the wall for its first long charge before it can be used. And once charged, will need to be re-charged on a regular basis.

> My phone is one of many items I have that needs re-charging. I use my phone enough throughout each day that it gets charged every night. Sometimes, it gets charged a couple of times in one day!

> But what about us? We do not require batteries, but we do need to be re-charged on a regular basis. We need to spend time in prayer each day to receive our daily bread.

As Christmas approaches, and life inevitably gets busier, let's remember to spend time re-charging. Let's spend time with God each day, so that we do not run on empty. Let's get filled with His Holy Spirit to overflowing so that it spills out to those around us.

Have a fantastic Christmas and New Year!

Danny



Boys' Brigade

We are now well into the new session and our numbers are holding up with a small increase in the Anchors Section. Meeting on a Monday meant our programme was disrupted in November as we lost three weeks in succession with, half term, school inset day and bonfire night but we are now back with our regular meetings. Our enrolment service was held back in October when all boys and staff committed themselves to the Company for the year ahead. It is also an opportunity for the church to confirm their support.

The Juniors are currently preparing for the Battalion potted sports competition. We have done well in this in the past but with a younger group this year we need to work hard to cut the time for each event. We now have two good drummers in the Company Section which means we can move forward with new material.

Noah Morrison carried our Colour (flag to some!) along with members of other organisations, at the Service of Remembrance, held in our church this year. Entering our church from under the low gallery with a large Colour is not easy but Noah coped very well. Those of us who have done this in the past know how easy it is to get the Colour wedged.

We now look forward to the second half of the session after Christmas. Soon it will be summer!

David Walters

Call to Pray Together... for our church

Following our time together on the afternoon of 14th October for prayer and a fellowship meal, Danny and I are arranging another time of fellowship and prayer for the 13th January. This time, however, we plan for it to follow on from the morning service.

Please bring food to share together in a "faith lunch" in the hall from 11.45am. We will then gather back in the church to begin our prayers together at 12.30pm until 13.30pm, this will use prayer spaces set up in the church, and in other rooms.

The afternoon is then yours, but why not gather together again for #SomethingDifferent in the evening when we will be thinking of what God is saying to us, and sharing the Lord's Supper.

Keith Morrison

24-7 Prayer Vienna 2018 24-7 PRAYER As someone who isn't directly involve in one of these 24-7 Prayer communitie

n October I had the exciting opportunity to travel out to the European gathering of 24-7 Prayer with a group of friends from Holy Trinity Brompton in London. 24-7 Prayer began just nearby in Sussex, with a small prayer gathering in Chichester during September 1999. What this group didn't realise is that this experience would spark the formation of an international movement of prayer rooms that have been praying across the globe non-stop since that first meeting. In fact, God was on the move; as at almost exactly the same time in late 1999, other praver movements were founded across the globe that would go on to have just as big an impact, including the International House of Prayer Kansas City. The exciting story of the journey the 24-7 prayer movement has taken since those early days has been chronicled by their founder, Pete Grieg, in a fantastic book called "Red Moon Rising" that I thoroughly recommend to you all (I will leave a copy in the lounge at church, so if anyone would like to borrow it they can).

The four days in Vienna were a chance for the 24-7 Prayer family to join together, to encourage one another, to be refreshed, and to refocus on their calling to serve in the diverse communities that have been built up around this movement. As someone who isn't directly involved in one of these 24-7 Prayer communities, it was a real privilege to join with them during this time, and to experience the infectious energy and momentum behind them.

For me, some of the most powerful memories I will take from Vienna revolve around the heart of 24-7 Praver to see unity within the church and the belief that, while there are many differences across the church, when the people of God unite around the purposes of God then great things happen. Embodying this value, our four days in Vienna were hosted by a Catholic prayer community based in Austria called the Loretto Community, and venues included churches of the Franciscan and Dominican Orders, the palace of the Archbishop of Vienna, Cardinal Schönborn, and even a time of public worship in the stunning St Stephan's Cathedral right in the heart of the city.

Times of great revival have always been born out of prayer, and I believe that as God's church prays, we can and will see the communities around us transformed.

Alex Hall

Traditional Christmas Concert 7:30pm Thursday December 20th

Yes, we call our annual concert 'traditional' as we will again sing together at least six carols including Mary's Boy Child & Ding Dong Merrily on High. However, there is so much more to this celebration of the wonder of Christmas.

The Perdido Players 'Carol' Band will accompany the carols and our guests will entertain us with readings and music including a classical guitar selection. Our church choir led by Peter Swann will be singing secular Christmas songs and modern carols.

Doors will open at 7pm on Thursday 20th December at Lindfield United Reformed Church with this free concert starting at 7-30pm. From approximately 9-00pm tea, coffee & mince pies will be served. All contributors offer their services freely to support St Peter and St James Hospice Community Nurses and you are welcome to make a donation if you desire.

The illustration by the father of Gwen Fermer, Don Cranefield is of the band outside the church in 2008. Gwen Fermer is lead saxophonist in the current band line up.

Why not come and celebrate the wonder of Christmas with us? You would be most welcome.

Peter Swann

Leader Perdido Players Carol Band

Info: 01444 450335



New Year



have a great affection for the winter season: a time for the closing down of the heat and busyness of summer, longer nights, time to reflect and pray in front of my log fire, and meet Jesus in the reflection of the flames. A time to pass on reflections of the presence of Christ in my life.

My earliest memories of New Year are of men scurrying home with crates of lager around Glasgow on the afternoon of the 31st December. Glasgow floated in a sea of alcohol for about three days every New Year. As Christians, it was commonplace to be teetotal. The banner 'Temperance Hotel' could still just be seen across buildings.

As a 21st century parent living in England, it is my experience that the average age of baptism into drunkenness is around 16.

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As a Christian parent, I am now proud to pass on to my children the safeguarding wisdom of how to engage with alcohol (and other substances) according to Bible teaching. The Christian faith is a wholelife experience that should challenge and change everything we do and say, according to how the Holy Spirit leads and teaches us.

Before the millennium (31st December 1999) the world wondered whether cash machines would be dumbfounded into throwing out streams of notes because of the clock change. We wondered whether nuclear bombs would fly into the night sky because of computer malfunctions. That night my Dad had pneumonia in Glasgow Royal Infirmary. My mother and I were offered sweet and sour chicken by the nurses as my Dad laboured to breathe in bed. I read the 23rd Psalm to my Dad and told him I loved him. His chest raised as he muttered something inaudible. My Dad died at 22:30 on millennium night. He never found out what happened to the banks, but he did find Jesus waiting with open arms to welcome him home – a good and faithful servant to the living God. In life and in death there is no hope except in the name of Jesus.

Everytime I get a new mobile phone I wonder whether I really need a God! My new phone can translate English into a foreign language, I can find out where I am when I'm lost, I can make unlimited free calls to my wife (terms and conditions apply). There's nothing my phone can't do with a bit more RAM!

There will be many gods you will be offered to serve in 2019: financial security in wealth, education, gender, sexuality, specialist food diets. My prayer is that you will find a meeting place with the one true God found in Jesus Christ. I pray that you will focus on Him as the Alpha and Omega, and lay all that you are and forever will be at His feet, and find true freedom in the process.

Finally, I'd like to encourage all of you who are Christians to become evangelists in 2019. Here's the training package – 'Just say Hello.' I'd like to encourage you to open doors for people, smile at your neighbour who has spent years purposefully ignoring you, say, 'Hello,' to people in the street, Talk to them, see where the conversation leads, speak Jesus if you can, pray with them if you can. Be the blessing in your community that you were created to be. 'Just say Hello,' and see where you go.

On Halloween this year my wife and children put up a lightbox at the end of our driveway saying, 'Jesus is Light and Hope. Knock 4 sweets.' They put tealights all the way up the pathway to our front door. On each chocolate bar we handed out we attached a note saying,' Hello! We are a Christian family. We don't believe in Halloween. BUT! We believe that God loves us and that He's greater than all the powers of darkness. Ask us if you want to know more!' Last year we had about 12 children call. This year we had 28. No-one was offended by our beliefs, and they do like our chocolate!

I could talk all day, so I will leave you now with a blessing. It's impossible to write about Jesus without upholding the glory of His written word:

Jude 1 v24 -25 says, ' Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Saviour Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen

God Bless you this day and always in the mighty name of Jesus. Happy 2019.

Harry McCleery

Something Different December January

2nd New Year, New Me!

The first Sunday of Advent, and the start of the Christian year, so what's your New Year resolution? How does that compare with God's resolution for the world?

9th Hey There! Hay There!

We think of the arrival that wasn't in a palace or hospital birth suite, but in humble surroundings. What does this mean for us?

16th Christmas – Under Construction

We are into the second half of Advent, is the work of preparation complete? What are we building anyway?

23rd Lessons and Carols

Adam Earle will lead us as we meet in the church to sing by candlelight

6th Wrapping up

It's the twelfth night, are you packing it all away, or are you, like the Magi, getting ready to present yourself to the King?

13th We've Heard...

When we read the scriptures, what does it make us think, and what does that make us do? Has God said something to us today, if so what will we do tomorrow?

20th I will / will not ...

We have many options in our life, many choices to be made, but are there things that we can't choose? Are these choices different if we choose to be God's people?

27th A Peace of Cake

In America the 27th January is "National Chocolate Cake Day", Chocolate was unknown in the Eastern Mediterranean during the time the bible was written – but what about a slice of cake?

Mission Focus

he mission focus at the start of 2019 will be on the Romans One Eleven Trust.

• I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong – that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. Romans 1:11

This is the biblical passage which inspired and has continued to undergird the work of the Romans One Eleven Trust since its start in 1992. Its main aim is to provide mutual encouragement for churches in the UK and in African countries.

The Trust exists to build the Kingdom of God through support for African pastors and their churches and through theological and ministry based teaching.

Through exchange visits between churches and pastors, now mainly from Uganda and Zambia, British and African churches mutually encourage each other in ministry and shared fellowship. In August this year a team of seven people from the UK visited Uganda as part of this vision.

The work has grown to include the overseeing of schemes to sponsor children, many of them orphans, enabling them to be housed, clothed, fed and educated.

Some pastors are also sponsored and the Trust provides the mechanism for individuals and churches in the UK to help fund specific development projects in Africa. In the early 2000's Lindfield United Reformed Church was introduced to Pastor Samuel Muhumuza. Samuel is pastor of the Kibaale Ssanje congregation where he also directs the first Spiritual Life Centre to be set up. The Trust operates a child sponsorship scheme for children in his church and school. Several of the sponsored children have gone on to further education and some have already graduated from university.

To give, please use special mission-giving envelopes and place your gift in the offertory at any of the Sunday Services. Complete a Gift Aid slip if appropriate. Cheques should be made payable to Lindfield URC.

Missions Group



Christmas Letter



Dear Friends,

A recent survey revealed that one in three children had no idea that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Other religious blank spots included the role of the Archangel Gabriel, with more than a quarter having no idea that Gabriel brought God's message to Mary at her home in Nazareth to say that she would give birth to a son.

As Moderator I rarely get the opportunity to interact with children as I did when I was in pastoral charge. But I was reminded of an opportunity last year when I put my 'teaching skills' to the test. I asked a group of Under 7s some questions about the Christmas story and got some very interesting answers:

• Who is Jesus?

Jesus was a king and he wore a crown even though he was a baby. It was a really small crown. Where was Jesus born? He was born in a stable a long way away from here in another country. Bethlehem - it's in England. There were sheep, horses and a crocodile outside the stable.

• What gifts did the wise men bring?

The three wise men brought Jesus presents of gold, frankincense and murr. But I think he would have liked some Lego.

- Who were his parents? Mary and Joseph and they were very happy with the king's gifts.
- Why do we celebrate Christmas? (silence) I believe in unicorns and pixies.

At least one of the answers gave me some hope that what we have been teaching our children and our children's children might have made some impact.

But the answers also made me think about the true meaning of Christmas and the temptation to preach about the need to dismiss all that distracts us at this time of year from the true meaning of the birth of baby Jesus - the presents and cards and turkey and stuff...

For me, the real meaning of Christmas is that God became human like me because God takes human stuff seriously. In the coming of Jesus, Immanuel, God-with-us, God shows me how important all of my life is to him. In the coming of Jesus, Immanuel, God-with-us, God is real, someone 'with skin on to love'. The real meaning of Christmas is that it is all real (unlike unicorns and pixies), that God comes to us in the ordinary stuff of life. God comes to us and to all the world in overcrowded hotels, squealing babies, rough shepherds and wise men with poor navigation skills that make an unfortunate detour to Herod's palace.

It is Luke who records that God comes to ordinary shepherds. He comes to them through angelic choirs and the song of angels moves the shepherds to belief and action because they are prepared to believe and act. They respond to the song by saying: "Let's take a chance! Let's set aside our usual occupation; let's change our lives and go over to Bethlehem and see if we can find this God-child."

How will God come to you? Where do you find a manger? In their ordinariness the shepherds check out the stables in this village and come across one with a baby sleeping in it. They meet the Holy Family and share with them their story of the angelic visitation. Then they go and tell others what the angels have told them. They make known what had been told them about this child. The angel's announcement of "a Saviour, Christ the Lord" is spread throughout the area, resulting in amazement in the hearers. We don't know what happened to the shepherds after that. The final scene in this passage finds the shepherds climbing back up the hill to where their flocks lie. The angel had told them what to expect and that's just the way they found it. We leave them glorifying and praising, the appropriate response to this unforgettable night. Because God comes to them, they are changed.

God is with us in all of our Christmases. What will our appropriate response be? Weighed down by all the Christmas hype we may not feel like saying with the shepherds: "Let's take a chance! Let's set aside our usual occupation; let's change our lives and go over to Bethlehem and see if we can find this God-child." And that is OK. For in the coming of Jesus, Immanuel, God-with-us, every ordinary person becomes part of the story of God's love. That's the true meaning of Christmas.

Come, Lord Jesus. Be born in us this Christmas.

With Advent and Christmas blessings,

Nicola Furley-Smith Moderator URC Southern Synod

Who am I

While you boil the sprouts here is another chance for you to guess who in our congregation fits the description provided by the answers below.

This time you have two months to think about who it might be, so no excuses for not getting the right answer. For those who are still puzzled, All will be revealed in the February edition of Good News!

Where were you born? *Cuckfield*

What was your favourite subject at school? Matus

What was your first Church? LURC

What is/was your job? Fine funer

What's your favourite sport? Motor sport

What is your favourite hymn/worship song?

The Splendour Of The King

GoodNEWS MAGAZINE

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

Half full

What's your favourite food?

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

I quite fancy Iceland

What makes you laugh? Most things to be honest

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

Not very good at quizzes - rubbish memoru



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Church Secretary

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TreasurerPaul Bloxham01444 483672

Boys' Brigade:

	5	
Keith Mor	rison (Chaplain)	01444 484791

FlowersBetty Billins01444 484494

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In Touch

Sue Gooch 01444 455047

Lunch Fellowship

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Pastoral Group

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The Fellowship

Pat Phillips

01444 484507

Stepping Stones Zoe McQuillin

01444 484364

Lighthouse (Junior Church) Co-ordinator Dawn Walters 01444 441601



	Arranging	Distributing				
Decen	nber					
2nd	Memorial Flowers for Elsie Anderson	Iris Bingham				
9th	Christmas Tree Plant	Heather Swann				
16th	Christmas Tree Plant	No distribution				
23rd	Christmas Flowers	No distribution				
30th	Christmas Flowers	No distribution				
Janua	ry					
6th	Carol Marsh	Fiona Tingley				
13th	Doreen Fowler	Sue Tester				
20th	Leslie Sparks	Carol Marsh				
27th	Mary Comber	Meta Orchin				
February						
3rd	Zoe McQuillin	Jo Bloxham				
10th	Zoe McQuillin	Iris Bingham				
17th	Jessie Green	Heather Swann				
24th		Fiona Tingley				

Around Lindfield

Tuesday 4th December

6:00pm Lindfield Christmas Festival Night

Friday 7th December

7:00pm Lindfield Horticultural Society in King Edward Hall Christmas Social Supper and Entertainment

Wednesday 12th December

12:15pm Tiger Arts - Lunch at Lindfield URC1:00pm Christmas Party Concert at Lindfield URC

Wednesday 9th January

8:00pm Lindfield Horticultural Society in King Edward Hall Talk : "Vegetable Growing in Raised Beds" by Barry Newman

Thursday 24th January

7:30pm Village Film Night in King Edward Hall Film TBC Tickets available from Tuffnels.



www.lindfieldurc.org.uk