



GoodNEWS **MAGAZINE**

FREE MONTHLY

From Lindfield United Reformed Church

April 2019

**Let the little children come to me, and
do not hinder them, for the kingdom of
heaven belongs to such as these.**

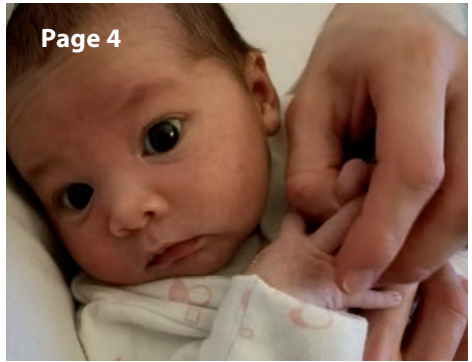
Matthew 19:14 NIV

Bible verse of the month

“The path of the
righteous is like
the first gleam of
dawn, shining ever
brighter till the
full light of day.”

Proverbs 4:18 NIV

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Our verse this month is from
Ray Tijou.

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

goodnews@lindfieldurc.org.uk

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Editorial

How delighted we were with so many great entries for this month's Photographic competition. The winner is Lesley Sparks, who produced the photograph on this month's front Cover. One very special little boy, sitting in all innocence amongst many white daises. How blessed his family are to have him. Congratulations to Lesley who is so very proud of him. A big thank you all the people who sent in photographs. We really appreciated your participation.

Easter is coming, do enjoy all the different articles which help us consider how we can be aware of the importance of how 'God shows us His way' and more information about Ash Wednesday.

Ray has written how 'Nothing will separate us from the Love of God'. There is a summary about 'The service of the Women's World Day of Prayer. It was good to see all three Lindfield Churches coming together for this celebration.

Our Family News gives notice regarding the birth and safe delivery of two new babies. There is an invitation to you to join the Art and Craft Group on Monday mornings, a warm welcome awaits should you join the group.

The Tree of Loss and Hope is standing in the concourse, we have a service on 14th April to remember together people's losses. Enjoy sharing the many articles in our Good News Magazine.

God Bless you all,

Anne

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Dear friends

I was trying to sort out the washing earlier, but when it came to the socks I got in a right state of confusion. Rather than just grabbing two blues to pair them and then a couple of greens, and so forth it seemed all four of us had, rather unusually, worn black socks and put them in the wash at the same time. I had to examine each individual sock considering length of foot, length of ankle, and what the ribbing was like to try and match it with another. Even having done that I seemed to end up with four odd socks that must have been two odd pairs when worn, having been paired not quite correctly in a previous wash. Oh dear what a muddle!

I had been doing the washing not simply as a chore but a means of delay to writing this letter so that when I came to type it I might have something profound to say about the Brexit situation and the future of the UK, the only thing that has come clear is that political parties, and opinions, seem even more muddled than my family's socks. By the time you read this things from Westminster may be decided, then again it might not, will we be in or out of Europe, and either way what will happen next? What I can say however, whatever happens with politics, we have a God of compassion who cares about our future, and loves us whatever situations and confusions we might find ourselves in.

This month we will remember at Easter how great our Heavenly Father's love truly is, that He gave His son Jesus to the world that we might be forgiven and receive the promise of

eternal life. The disciples of Jesus recognised the authority of the Lord in the word of their teacher, they saw mighty signs that were foretastes of the kingdom, they call him Messiah, but yet they trip over themselves repeatedly as they do not understand Jesus victory will be won on the cross and not drawing swords against the Romans. The twelve fall away. They betray, and disown Jesus. They then hide in a locked room afraid of what next. Even on the evening of Easter day some of the believers wandering away from Jerusalem back towards their home are confused about what has happened (Luke 24). They have heard that the women found an empty grave, that angels had said Jesus is risen, but they do not comprehend that the Lord is with them on their journey, until that is he reveals himself in the breaking of bread.

There may be confusion in parliament, there may be things in our community such as street crime and vandalism, and there may be things in our personal life, our health, our employment situation, or difficulties within our family relationships, which bring us frustration, confusion and cause us to wonder what is going on. Whatever mess we seem to see in front of us, let us also see that Christ the risen son of God is with us, in him we can trust, in him we can have hope.

May you have a very happy Easter, experiencing God's life giving love.

Your minister

Keith

Family News

Congratulations

Two babies have arrived recently! Natalie and Will Porter have the gift of a daughter, Samantha, a baby sister for Aaron. Jonathan and Yuen Hall (who were married in our Church last year) have also been blessed with a daughter, Hannah. Martin and Helen have become proud Grandparents and Jessie Green is now a Great Grandmother. Our love and warm congratulations to them all as they rejoice in God's precious gift of new life.



Thank You

A big thank you for all your kind wishes, cards, flowers and gifts on the safe arrival of Hannah Jessie Lin Hall on 17 February which we have appreciated so very much. We do indeed thank God for Hannah's arrival into the family. God bless you all. With much love and thanks, Jonathan, Yuen & Hannah, Jessie (Great Grandma!), Martin, Helen and Alex.



Family News

Elise Burden

It is almost 17 years since Elise Burden left Lindfield to be near her son owing to her failing health.

Elise and her husband Sydney were both active members of this church and the Sunday Morning Singers and many in the congregation still have fond memories of this couple.

Elise was released from many years of suffering in February at the age of 97.

Invitation

Just a special invitation to you all to attend the 11.30am Service on Wednesday the 2nd of April. A short service of traditional hymn with prayer and a short address.

The Wednesday Lunch Fellowship meet on the same morning at 12.30pm and you are invited again to attend. If you have not signed up for April please do give me a ring to confirm your place.

Look forward to seeing you all.

Sue Gooch 455047

Tunes and tea

*Saturday 27th April
at 3-00pm.*

We are not playing carols at this our annual concert at the church.

It is a cornucopia of music ranging from Duke Ellington and others to songs from the shows presented by Dawn Walters.

Admission is free likewise a cup of tea but any donations will be passed to St Peter and St James Hospice.

For further information contact
Peter Swann



Village Day

Saturday 1st June

Village Day is fast approaching and we are once again excited to be able to have a stall on the common giving away free lemonade, with a smile and God's blessing, to about 1000 people who visit the Lindfield URC stall.

We need lots of volunteers to give an hour of their time on the day - people behind the front line filling up the cups with the lemonade and people willing to be on the front line handing out the lemonade and goody bags or encouraging people to join in the cup stacking game.

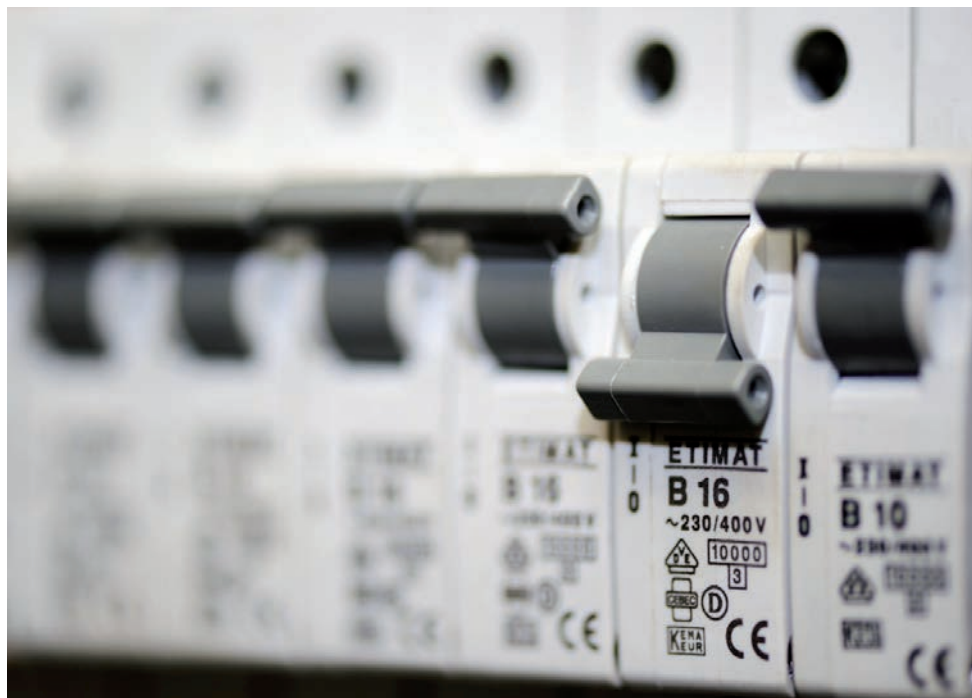
Volunteers will also be needed for preparation before the event and setting up and putting away on the day.

Thank you to those who have helped in the past, we hope you will be able to be part of the team again. If you have never helped before it is a great day full of fun so, if you are able, please give it a go this year and sign up on the volunteer list on the notice board.

The Outreach Group



Off and On



I recently had a little problem with my computer that was easily rectified. “Turn it off and then turn it back on again,” I was told; that’s exactly what I did, and it worked a treat. It made me think, wouldn’t it be wonderful if all our problems in life could be dealt with so easily? Imagine if we could refresh or renew ourselves and our lives at the flick of a switch. But isn’t that just what Easter is about? The problem of sin stains our lives and, through the wonder of the cross and the glory of the resurrection, we are renewed. Easter is about new and renewed life, life turned on again through the wonder of our risen Lord.

At Easter, God speaks to us clearly through the cross and resurrection, and in so doing he shows us his way. We celebrate the greatest event in the history of this world. We remember that God allowed his Son to go through the hideous ordeal of crucifixion, a form of execution that was normally reserved for the vilest of criminals. However, then we turn our thoughts to the resurrection of our Lord and we remember that on the third day he rose in glorious triumph. Through the resurrection, God has given us a new birth into a living hope. A new hope which brings forgiveness of sins and life everlasting and shows us the way ahead.

New life, new opportunities, new hope; Easter presents an exciting world with exciting chances to witness.

But what happens next? What about Easter Bank Holiday Monday? What about the day after that? What about next week, next month, next year? What about when the wonder of resurrection day fades, when the lights go out and the church doors are closed; will Easter be over and forgotten? Or is it possible for us to discover the joy and wonder of Easter Day and use it to impact our lives every day?

Let me give you some power-packed reasons why the Resurrection is important to you and every other believer every day of every year:

First: by the Resurrection we are certain that Jesus is the Son of God. Romans 1:4, Jesus was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead.

Second: by the Resurrection we are sure of a right relationship with God. Romans 4:25, He (Jesus) was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification (righteous standing before God).

Third: by the Resurrection we claim victory and power for daily living. Galatians 2:20, I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Fourth: by the Resurrection we are motivated to live selfless lives of service. 2Corinthians 5:15, And he (Jesus) died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

Fifth: by the Resurrection we are filled with hope, regardless of life's circumstances.

1 Peter 1:3, Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Sixth: by the Resurrection Jesus guaranteed us eternal life. John 11:25-26, Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

This Easter, may each day bring another wave of resurrection life and power to your life and the life of the church.

After all we have God's Word on it!

Yours in the ongoing resurrection love of the risen Christ,

Simon Franklin

Tree of Loss and Hope

On Sunday 14th April at 10am during the service, the losses represented by the ribbons hung on the tree will be dedicated to God for his care, healing and peace for those suffering hurt and sadness due to loss. All will be welcome to remember together all the people and losses represented by the ribbons and to give opportunities to reflect on the suffering caused by such losses.

Thanks will also be given for all the good things in life God gives.

The tree will remain available to hang ribbons on for the next few months and it is hoped that a further dedication service will take place in the Autumn.

Jacquie Odell



The Art Group



The Art and Craft Group continues to meet on Monday mornings in the church hall. There is plenty of space for you to join us in the spacious hall. It really does not matter if you are an expert or novice, you will be welcome. Pop in on a Monday morning to enjoy a coffee with cake and discover that the group encourages one another through painting, sewing, knitting, craft work and maybe inspire you to make the Art Group part of a regular routine.

Once a year the group puts on a display of work in the hall for the benefit of a wider audience. If you think you might enjoy an art friendly relaxed atmosphere you're welcome from 10am on Monday mornings to discover The Art Group.

Doreen Fowler

Come, Everything is ready

Every day it is good to know that we can pray to our great redeeming and loving God, full of praise and thankfulness, often lifting our cares and needs to Him.

However, there is something extra special about the World Day of Prayer when our prayers are part of a great wave of prayer encircling the globe joining with the hearts of people in over 120 countries and islands around the world.

This year the service was written by the women of Slovenia. Did you know that Slovenia is one of the smallest and youngest countries in Europe and has had a population that since the 8th century has been mainly Christian?

At the heart of the message of the service there is an open invitation for all to come to God's table, 'Come – everything is ready!' We heard the voices of some of those coming to the table: wives, mothers and grandmothers, Roma people, refugees and migrant workers. Their stories reflect the political and economic situation of Slovenia from the time it was a socialist-communist state to the present day.

Five different women represented varied experiences telling us something of their lives. One told of the time she had lived through when their country was part of Yugoslavia, a Marxist socialist republic where Christians were considered to be second-class citizens affecting the

opportunities available to them and their future. Many Slovenes at the end of the Second World War had to leave the country to find work, so understand what it is like to be a refugee or migrant worker. We heard from younger voices whose experience is of the freedom after Slovenia gained independence in 1991 and of the access to free education and legal equality between men and women, after years of restrictions for women, but also of the common instances of the breakdown of family relationships. We heard of the plight of the elderly, especially those in the countryside whose families have left to find work in the cities, who feel isolated and vulnerable. Do these experiences sound familiar to us? A middle aged mother of two told us of the poisoning effect of alcoholism on her whole life from childhood when her father was often drunk and violent to the later time when her husband resorted to alcohol as a consolation when he could no longer find work and of his resulting violent behaviour to their children. We heard from a Roma women who had spent a happy, carefree childhood in a Roma village with a loving, caring family, able to enjoy a good education. The Roma village was accepted by the larger community around them and she had little experience of rejection. But she is aware that her experience does not fully reflect the social and economic situation of the Roma people in Slovenia or Europe, where they have access to few basic facilities and little education affecting their job prospects and their ability to free their families from poverty.



Central to the service we heard the parable Jesus told, found in the gospel of Luke, Chapter 14, of someone who gave a great dinner at his house and sent his servant to invite many.

But all those invited declined the invitation because they had something else to do that they thought was important to them. So the owner of the house became angry and told the servants to go to the streets and lanes and bring in the poor, the lame and the blind and to compel all to come.

The Slovenian artist, Rezka Armus, was asked to paint something specifically for the 2019 WDP service from Slovenia, based on the story found in Luke's gospel. Her aim in the painting was to present two topics: the country of Slovenia and the main biblical story of the worship service.

Looking at the picture we can see it is coloured and bold. The semicircle in the centre represents a plate or table, decorated in the style of traditional Slovenian embroidery, signifying that this is a special meal. The table is set for a celebration, with some typical food of Slovenia, grapes as Slovenia is a wine producing country, a national speciality called polica resembling a Chelsea bun with a nut filling and also Slovenian licitar that are heart shaped biscuits often given at weddings and as gifts made from the honey of the Carniolan bee and decorated with a carnation, a common Slovenian flower. This laden table might be signifying that God offers an abundant feast, a celebration offered in love, freely given.

Who are the people at the top of the picture and what are they doing? They are wearing traditional Slovenian national dress and appear to have their backs to the table and be getting on with their own lives unconcerned about the people below. Are they those who were originally invited to the celebration?

Those people placed at the bottom of the picture, even under the table, appear side-lined, on the edge. Are these people the 'leftovers' in society, people 'unseen', ignored, vulnerable? Though the artist has depicted the people underneath and 'on the edges' more prominently than those at the top. Perhaps this also represents the importance of them to God, who especially cares for those who are weak and vulnerable and that the 'have nots' may be nearer to God's Kingdom than the 'haves'.

The story of Luke ends with a warning to those who were originally invited, that they should not be complacent and selfish. They will be the ones to miss out. Perhaps it is a warning to us too, a reminder that we are all God's children, that everyone is valued and that God's Kingdom is open to all. We can turn to God to ask that he may open our hearts to compassion and understanding and ask his forgiveness for being silent in the face of injustice.

The meal is prepared, the table is set, and all are invited, so come, share in this feast in the Kingdom of God.

Jo Bloxham

Food Bank Donations

Thank you for your continued support of the food bank and Turning Tides homeless project for which over 600 items have now been donated. We thought you may be interested to know what happens to the items after we receive them.

Haywards Heath Food Bank

Your kind food bank donations are delivered to the local collection centre in Haywards Heath on a monthly basis and are then taken to a warehouse for sorting into category and expiry date order. The items are then returned to the food bank, packaged ready for distribution.

Vouchers are issued to a host of local sectors including Hospital Wards, Family Centres, Schools and Citizens Advice Bureaus; Health Visitors and GPs are also provided with vouchers.

In the case of schools, extra vouchers are given out ahead of school holidays to provide much needed breakfast and lunches that would normally have been provided at school.

Turning Tides Homeless Project

Donations to Turning Tides are also delivered on a monthly basis to a representative from the charity based at the Mid Sussex Council Offices in Haywards Heath.

Selected items are then sent to specific local locations for onward distribution. Items such as tinned baked beans and tomatoes are especially useful for the breakfast drop-in run by the Salvation Army in Horsham.

Any remaining items are distributed to Homeless Clients in Mid Sussex.

Please keep the donations coming as the food needs of the homeless and those struggling for money to buy food, do not diminish as the seasons change.

Thank you
The Food Bank Team



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

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	11:30am	Wednesday Worship (1st Wed) a midweek service
	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)

The church regularly opens midweek on
Monday Afternoon 2:00-3:00pm
Tuesday 10:00am - Noon
Friday Afternoon 2:00-3:00pm

April Church diary

3rd Wednesday	11:30am 12:30pm	Wednesday Worship Lunch Fellowship	18th Maundy Thursday	8:00pm	Maundy Thursday Service
6th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, URC	19th Good Friday	9:30am 10:00am	Walk of Witness from Lindfield Common Service at All Saints
7th Sunday	10:00am 6:30pm	Family Worship Something Different Rev Keith Morrison	20th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, URC
10th Wednesday	10:15am	Lent Groups at EFC	21st EASTER DAY	10:00am 6:30pm	Family Worship Easter Praise Rev Keith Morrison
13th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, URC	24th Wednesday	2:30pm 7:30pm	The Fellowship Elders' Meeting
14th Sunday	10:00am 6:30pm	Family Worship Graham Campling Communion David Goodenough	25th Thursday	8:00pm	Church Prayer Meeting
15th - 18th Monday	12:30- 1:30pm & 7:30- 8:30pm	Start of Holy Week Church is open for prayer Mon-Thr	27th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, URC
			28th Sunday	10:00am 6:30pm	Morning Worship Something Different Rev Keith Morrison
			30th Tuesday	7:30pm	In Touch

YOUTH

SUPER HERO ACADEMY

**CALLING ALL TRAINEE
SUPER HEROES AGED 5-11 !
COME JOIN US FOR A WEEK
OF SUPER HERO TRAINING!**

**LINDFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
TUESDAY 28TH MAY TO FRIDAY 31ST MAY
1.30PM - 4.30PM
PLUS SUNDAY 2ND JUNE
10AM - 11AM**

Book now for your place at our Holiday Club!

Contact me for a booking form!
dgoodall@lindfielddurc.org.uk



Lighthouse had a wonderful social time with great food and fun skittles in Barcombe the other week. Several families were able to join together for a time of fun and fellowship!

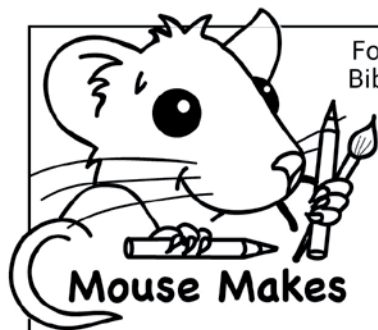
PAGES

Photo Competition

Many thanks to everyone who entered this month's photo competition. The winning entry, submitted by Lesley Sparks, is reproduced on our front cover this month but we were hugely impressed by the quality and creativity of all the wonderful images submitted.

The GoodNEWS Team



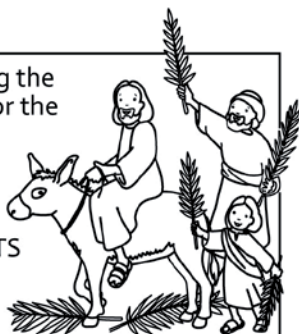


Follow the **Easter story** using the Bible references, then look for the words in the puzzle.

Into Jerusalem

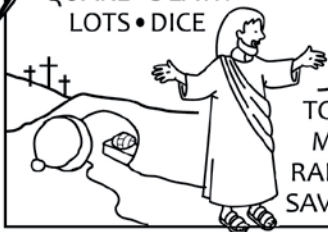
read *Matthew 21:1-11*

DONKEY • ROAD • COATS
BRANCHES • PALMS
KING • HOSANNA



 **The Last Supper**
read *Matthew 26:17-30*
TWELVE DISCIPLES
PASSOVER
ROOM • BREAD
WINE • SON • MAN
BODY • BLOOD
CUP • MEAL

 **Betrayal and Death**
read *Matthew 26:36-27:56*
GETHSEMANE
PRAY • BETRAY
KISS • ARREST
MESSIAH • CHRIST
SON • ACCUSED
CRUCIFY • JESUS
CROWN • THORNS
ROBE • TREE
NAILS • CROSS
DARKNESS
QUAKE • DEATH
LOTS • DICE



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

Burial and Resurrection

read *Matthew 27:57-28:20*

TOMB • STONE • LINEN • BODY • BURY • THREE DAYS
MORNING • MARY • ANGEL • HEAVEN • LORD • GOD
RAISED • JOY • GO TELL • GOOD NEWS • PEACE • SPIRIT
SAVIOUR • PRAISE • EASTER • I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS



Romans 1:11 Trust

As many of you know LURC has supported the Romans 1:11 Trust for several years. The Trust was inspired, and continues to be undergirded, by the verse Romans 1:11-12:

“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 1:11-12

In February we were delighted to have a visit by the Trust’s Chair, Jon Sermon, who was able to share recent news about the Trust’s work.



Exciting News

We are delighted that local businesswoman and R1:11 supporter, Jacqui Smith of HomeSmiths interior design, has had the vision to hold interior design events to raise funds for the construction of a dining hall for one of the schools that R1:11 supports in Uganda.

Jacqui is also Chair of the Haywards Heath Dementia Action Alliance (see www.homesmiths.co.uk/dementia-action-alliance-haywards-heath) so, as well as holding two Design Workshops (at 9.30am-1.00pm on Wednesdays 8 and 15 May), she is also holding a talk on Dementia Friendly Homes (at 5.30-6.30pm on Thursday 23 May). At this talk, Jacqui will be sharing her knowledge of dementia friendly design, giving tips and advice on how a home can be made more supportive of a person living with dementia. Questions are very welcome and should you wish to bring photographs of the room or rooms you would like advice on, please do bring them along so that Jacqui can advise on the night.

Bookings for workshops and talk via Jacqui Smith at jacqui@homesmiths.co.uk. Please see the advert below for more details about the workshops or visit the HomeSmiths website www.homesmiths.co.uk.

Interior Design Charity Fundraiser Workshop – BOOK NOW



An interior design workshop run by local interior designer Jacqui Smith of HomeSmiths, covering:

- **Basic design principles**
- **How to create your own scheme**

When and where?

We are offering two different dates for the workshop - **8th** or **15th May**. The workshop will run from 9.30am to 1pm, including a coffee break and be held in the lounge of the Lindfield United Reformed Church.

How to book?

Tickets (to include materials and refreshments) are £100 and can be booked via Jacqui Smith at jacqui@homesmiths.co.uk

ALL PROCEEDS will go directly to the Romans 1:11 charity to facilitate the building of a dining hall for the children at the Ssanje Modern School in Kibaale, Uganda.

For more information visit the Romans 1:11 website at www.romans111.org.uk.



Ash Wednesday



“*The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the Good News.*”

MARK 1:15

When I was asked to take the service on Ash Wednesday I suddenly realised that, in well over 60 years of leading worship, I had never taken an Ash Wednesday service.

I immediately turned to Google, the preachers' friend, (we use to spent many hours consulting reference books on our shelves) and read it up. The entries tell us the background, what the various churches do for the occasion – but there was nothing there that inspired me as a theme for an address!

It does, of course, mark the beginning of Lent and so starts the period of preparation for Easter. It goes back to early Christian customs and is still observed as the beginning of a period of fasting and abstinence in preparation for the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Many Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Lutherans and others mark the occasion with the ceremonial sprinkling of ash on the head or the placing of an ash cross on the forehead. For many of us free church folk the furthest we go to observe Lent is to abstain from some delicacy like chocolate or crisps or to read some uplifting publication.

I didn't find in this any particular inspiration for a message – until I read on and found the words used at mass by a priest when anointing someone with the ash cross on their forehead. "Repent and believe the Good News".

Way back, in the book of Exodus, we read how God told Moses "I have made a covenant with you & with Israel". They were his special people with special care and privileges, sealed with the blood of animal sacrifices, for blood was the symbol of life to the Jews. And the condition of the covenant was that they kept the law, which God had given them through Moses.

Now the people of the Chosen Race wanted the privileges of this special relationship with God - they wanted Him to help them fight their battles and grow their crops - but the law was difficult to keep and even the most devoted found it was almost impossible to observe every little detail, to love their neighbours and to worship God as He seemed to require.

So the law was never properly kept and the era of the Old Covenant was an era of fear, for they knew in their hearts that, if they did not keep their side of the relationship, the time would come when God would have no more to do with them.

"Not all the blood of beasts, on Jewish altars slain,

Could give the guilty conscience peace,
or wash away our stain"

But with the coming of the Son of God, the incarnation, a new Covenant was offered to humankind - and with it the chance of a new kind of relationship with God. In place of living in fear of an angry God, we were offered a relationship with a loving Father. No longer need the relationship of a person to God be that of criminal and judge. Now the relationship was one of child and loving parent.

But the cost of that new Covenant was the blood of Christ. The slaughter of cattle and goats and sheep could never atone for the sins of an individual or a nation. Only the very life of God's own Son, given out of sheer love for us, was sufficient to seal the new Covenant.

And in place of the complex law of the old Covenant, the one condition of the new Covenant was to have faith - to repent and believe in this Jesus, to enter with longing hearts into this new relationship with God.

I suppose, therefore, that Lent is the time when we prepare ourselves for Easter, the fulfilment of God's promise to save his people. We free church people may not put ash crosses on our foreheads, but spiritually this is a time when we humbly remember before God our failings, our need to repent - and his promise of forgiveness in Jesus.

As we come to take our Easter Communion we do not come to remember a dead leader & his valiant deeds. No, we come to meet our ever-living Lord & be marked again with the symbol & seal of the new Covenant. The sacrament is a living sign & seal of the presence & inspiration of our Lord. Christ is present with us, not just in the elements, but at the table.

We meet Him and partake together of what he gives us, that spiritual food, that supernatural food & drink which are the very mark in us of the new Covenant - our new relationship with God.

This cup is the mark of our salvation - the seal of our covenant relationship with our Heavenly Father, to be received by us in faith & love. Such is the promise of the Christian era, of the New Testament Church, the new chosen people of God. "Drink ye all of it."

An old Highland Minister, seeing a woman hesitate to take communion, feeling herself unworthy, stretched out to her saying "Take it woman; it's for sinners: it's for you".

If the Lord's Supper is only for the perfect, none of us could come. But the Table is Christ's table, open for the sinner who repents - for the man or woman who comes, conscious of their faults and unworthiness, but willing to commit themselves in faith totally to Him who has promised to be present with us in a very special way.

So come and let us keep the feast - for this is one delicacy, one gift we can enjoy in the season of Lent.

"This is my 'body,' said Jesus, 'which is broken for you - this cup is the new Covenant in my blood - drink ye all of it'."

Michael Davies

Around the World

Have you given anything up for Lent? If so, I hope it is going well even though there's still a way to go if you are reading this at the beginning of the month! This set me thinking as to what other customs take place around the world at this time of Lent.

In the past, rigorous fasting and abstinence during Lent was common. In some areas, only one meal was taken during the entire 40 days. Other fasting practices included taking bread and water; not eating until after 3.00pm; eliminating all meat, eggs and dairy.

Greek Orthodox Christians give up all meat during Lent, and eat beans, orzo and pastas. Cookies and cakes are permitted as long as they don't contain butter.

In some parts of Germany, old Christmas trees are burned during Lent to welcome in the spring ('Lent' being the old Germanic word for 'spring'). Holy Week is also honoured by the staging of processions and Passion plays to remind the faithful of the Lord's suffering. The most famous of these, of course, is the Oberammergau play which is held every ten years.

In Germany and Austria Holy Thursday is known as Green Thursday (Grundonnerstag) when green foods are eaten (especially salads and spinach). I can vouch for this as, many years ago, while on a school exchange in Vienna, we had only poached egg and sloppy spinach for dinner! The reasons for this custom remain a mystery.

In Malta, the Wednesday of Holy Week is known as 'Drums' Wednesday because children go to church and drum on chairs to create the sound of thunder. The tradition of 'Visita Iglesias' (visiting churches) is popular. Some families will visit 14 churches, with each providing one of the Stations of the Cross. A special almond and honey cake is a highlight on the island. Honey-coated fried bread filled with spinach is another favourite!

In the Philippines there is one village, San Pedro where, on Good Friday some of the inhabitants actually endure crucifixion as well as flagellation with sharp-tipped whips. The crucifixion does not last long enough to cause serious injury or death.

Here in our own church in Lindfield we are not quite so extreme, perhaps, but we are trying to spread the Word and Love of Jesus by trying to carry out a deed of kindness every single day of the Lenten period. How are you getting on?

Carol Marsh

Nothing will separate us from the love of God

I said to someone in the hospice that I celebrated a milestone birthday in December. She said 'Are you 60?' I laughed and said no, 80. She had a job to believe me and told me I certainly don't look it!

A few months ago a couple of close Christian friends we've known for years who live in Frinton-on-Sea came to visit us and treated Rosemary and I to a lovely meal at the Beefeater in Burgess Hill. They came back to our house for coffee and a chat and I felt I wanted to give them an oil painting because of their kindness to us. I showed them some paintings and gave them one I painted of Jesus calming the storm on the Sea of Galilee. They were surprised and delighted and said later that it really related to the storms in their family life at present. God cares about what happens to people. God calms things down at times.

During my lifetime like many others I came through the second World War. I only saw one bomb go off while I played in the street. A big red and yellow flash in the sky and a very loud bang. It blew up some houses a few streets away. I did collect shrapnel in the street when I could. The Council had built shelters in our street as well.

We used to go down to Tooting Broadway Underground Station when the warning went and come out on the all clear. Sometimes we would go into the garden and step down into our Anderson Shelter which always smelt of candle wax and matches and was always very damp. I don't think the shelter would have saved anybody really. It was always good to go back into the house again.

Sometimes dad cooked some chips if there was time. Whenever someone lights a match and I smell the sulphur it always reminds me of the war. We were evacuated to Colwyn Bay in North Wales, separated from my dad who had to work in the Post Office Civil Defence programme. It was my brother, mum and me and we saw dad when he could make it. The separation was very upsetting for us all during the Blitz.

A few years later there was trouble in the Suez. I was a peacetime soldier and spent two years in the Royal Signals. Then there was Vietnam when thousands of men died. Then troubles in Northern Ireland etc., the bombing of the Grand Hotel in Brighton when the MPs were in residence, Iraq and Afghanistan where more lives were lost. Now we live in the nuclear age. While all these events have been taking place I think of that great song

Mission Update

CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY

www.capuk.org

“Where have all the flowers gone, long time passing. Where have all the young men gone - gone to be soldiers every one. Where have all the soldiers gone, gone to graveyards every one. Where have all the graveyards gone. Gone to flowers every one. when will they ever learn.”

Praise God during the 20th century Billy Graham and other preachers have continued to spread the Gospel and show a better way of life and peace, which is that whoever repents and believes and accepts Christ will have eternal life. So don't give up, keep pressing on with Jesus. He is not far from each one of us. Even though we are now in the 21st century the Gospel is still being proclaimed.

We are not separated from God's love. He is still there with us and it is He who can control this earth and the people on it, even if we are living in the last days.

Nothing will separate us from the love of God in Christ.

See Romans 8.30-32, 35-39. PTL.

Ray Tijou

As reported in last month's edition of Good News, our mission focus for March and April is Christians Against Poverty (CAP).

CAP's vision is to bring freedom and good news to the poor in every community through a nationwide network of CAP projects.

CAP has a rapidly growing debt centre network and has expanded its services to tackle the causes of debt and poverty too, including helping people into employment, helping people get control of their habitual dependencies, and a new service to equip people to live well on a low income.

“CAP has given me back my husband, my family, my life and my faith, which debt had taken hostage.”

Quote from CAP client

“CAP are serious, highly professional, deeply committed and, above all, they will treat you as a human being of infinite value.”

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

To find out more, please visit the CAP website (www.capuk.org) or see the missions display board.

Helen Hall

Who am I ?

This month another member of the congregation has answered our questions.

If you don't know the answer yet join us for coffee after the service and we can learn more about one another.

Where were you born?

Leeds

What was your favourite subject at school?

History

What was your first Church?

*Ebenezer Baptist Church,
Scarborough*

What is/was your job?

Teacher

What's your favourite sport?

Cricket

What is your favourite hymn/worship song?

"In Christ alone"

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

Half-empty

What's your favourite food?

Fish

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

Britain

What makes you laugh?

Unusual situations

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

General knowledge

The answer will be printed in next month's magazine.



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Sue Gooch 01444 455047

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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

Flower Rota

	Arranging	Distributing
April		
7th	Carol Walters	Heather Swann
14th	Janet Wade	Fo Tingley
21st	Easter Sunday	Easter
28th	Easter Sunday	Carol Marsh
May		
5th	Boys' Brigade	Jo Bloxham
12th	Fo Tingley	Meta Orchin
19th	Carol Marsh	Iris Bingham
26th	Betty Billins	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 6th April

- 2:00pm Lindfield Horticultural Society in King Edward Hall
Spring Show of Flowers and Produce
- 7:30pm Tiger Arts in All Saints Church Presents
"Bread of Life" by the Springs Dance Company (Tickets £10)
01444 482405 or springsdance2019.eventbrite.co.uk

Wednesday 10th April

- 12:15pm Tiger Arts – Lunch in the Tiger
- 1:00pm Concert in All Saints
John Rattenbury & Brian Ashworth (Classical Guitar Duo)
- 8:00pm Lindfield Horticultural Society Talk : King Edward Hall
Talk "Spring Colour at Rapkyns" by Steve Moore

Wednesday 17th April

- 2:30pm Lindfield Preservation Society in King Edward Hall
AGM followed by Presentation of the First Lindfield Conservation
and Design Awards followed by a short illustrated talk

Thursday 25th April

- 7:30pm Village Film Night in King Edward Hall
"Green Book" (12A) Tickets available from Tufnells



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