

GoodNEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2005

You've got mail: Christmas greetings enclosed



PLUS...

- Supporting Worthing Churches Homeless Project
- Meet the band; musicians uncovered!
- Men's Breakfast: releasing hostages



www.cartoonchurch.com



“ok then guys... on with
the tea-towels”

Dear Friends...



It's good to pause...

In December we complete our series on Revelation in the evenings and lead on towards Christmas with the morning themes. A team from the Worthing Churches Homeless Project join us on 11th December to share about their work and the issues that surround it.

Our Christmas services and concert provide a wide range of worship opportunities from celebration to reflection. Amongst all the hype of Christmas I think it is always good to give space to think about the deep meaning of Jesus' coming.

There is so much more to Jesus Christ than the manger and the shepherds. He has had more impact on world history than any other man. And yet he is much more than just someone in history. Jesus Christ is alive now.

Jesus is not only for special times of the year like Christmas

and Easter; nor just for times of desperation when we have tried everything else. Jesus can meet us in our everyday lives, in the ordinary things we do. Millions of people throughout the world have

discovered the reality of the Lord Jesus Christ.

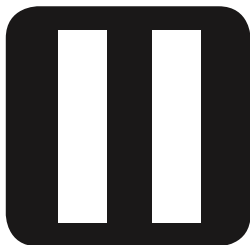
One of the most beautiful truths in the Bible is that God loves us. It was because of God's love that Jesus was born. It's an amazing mystery: God joined us in the human race as a

man – human yet divine to bring us salvation and peace.

I hope within the Christmas programme you can take a break from all the Christmas hustle and bustle and reach out to God.

A happy and blessed Christmas to you all.

Colin Bones



GoodNEWS

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Editorial



You are probably just about getting into deciding what to do with all your expected Christmas cards (to hang on ribbons or blu-tac to the doors?). You may have already purchased your fairly traded wrapping paper from Suzy or Serena (if not 18th December will be your last chance!). And, you surely have ordered your festive bird already!?

The only thing I must now say to you all is thank you. With over 40 Christmas greetings messages in our specially extended feature article – starting on page 4 – it is lovely to read personal 'best wishes' by so many church friends.

So as we share warm greetings with each other this year, let us all try and share that true message of love from God too.

David Tingley, editor



Prayer Diary



SUN

May our Advent worship be glorifying to God as we celebrate again the coming of His Son, Jesus, to the earth.

MON

Keep praying for our Church Officers and Elders – that God may strengthen and guide them in all their responsibilities.

TUE

Ask God to help us to be encouraging to one another. Ask His forgiveness that we so often criticise instead of praise.

WED

Pray for the Village Festival Night, especially that we may use our premises effectively to show God's love to everyone.

THUR

Please pray for the Worthing Churches Homeless Project, our mission focus this month.

FRI

Uphold the staff of the Lunch Fellowships as they prepare and serve Christmas lunches on 14th & 16th December.

SAT

Pray that many may come to the churches in Lindfield this Christmas, and find for themselves a living faith in Jesus Christ.

Prayer *FOCUS*

In addition to the above daily prayer reminders, please would you uphold in your prayers this month's other special prayer requests.

Together with readers of the current 'Care' Prayer guide, let us intercede for all who are carers at home. Many face hardship and isolation with little recognition or status. Ask that carers may be able to have much needed time off, with sufficient emotional support, professional and practical help and peace of mind about their loved-ones. Pray for Christians involved in caring for others at home, in the community or at work. May they know that what they are doing is in Christ's name. Ask God to help them to be beacons of His love and comfort in all their endeavours. In particular, pray that each may know support and encouragement this Christmas time.

"Lord of all compassion, thank you for the almost six million people in the UK who care for a family member, friend or neighbour. Please fill them with fresh energy to keep them going and send help when life is particularly stressful. Also, Lord Jesus, bless children who are carers and work to look after someone without much praise. Let them find friends who understand what it is like for them. Amen"




You've got mail

Sending messages of love at Christmas is such a special honour. This year, *GoodNEWS* has asked our church family to send festive greetings to one another via the magazine. The following pages show the notes of love and thanks which members and friends of Lindfield URC have personally written and submitted. The feature visually represents and celebrates the cross-section of folk worshipping at our church.

To all my friends
may the true spirit
of Christmas fill
you with joy and
peace.
With best wishes
Brenda Johnson.

Christmas Greetings!
The McCleery family would like to
wish all their friends at LURC
a very happy Christmas time.
We would like to thank everyone
for their love and support
through the last year.

Chris & Mary Corbett
send love &
best wishes for
a happy Christmas
& peaceful New Year
to all our friends
at L.U.R.C.

 We wish
our Church Family,
each one, joy and
hope, This Christmas
and
good health and
content in 2006
In His Love
Aubrey & Norma



MERRY CHRISTMAS
TO ALL OUR FRIENDS
AT THE CHURCH
FROM

DOROTHY MORRIS
AND MARTHA WIGMORE

May God's love, joy
& peace fill your
heart & home this
Christmas.

With love to you
all at LURC,

from
Siona (Hingley)


Lifeboats
Mrs H W Greatwood
55 Fieldway
Lindfield
Haywards Heath
RH16 2DE

WISHING EVERYONE A
HAPPY, BLESSED & PEACEFUL
CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR.
WITH LOVE & KINDEST
THOUGHTS.
HILARY G. x

To the faithful band
of
lessons readers
Greetings & Thanks
from
"the pressure exerting"
Janet.
May Jesus' joy be yours.

Wishing you all a
Merry Christmas,
from
Annabel, James,
Oliver & Tim Goody.

MAY EVERY ONE
OF YOU EXPERIENCE
THE JOY & RENEWAL
OF SPIRIT AT THIS
OUR LORD'S &
SAVIOUR'S BIRTH
Jen BAXTER.



Feature - Your Christmas Greetings

Joy to the world

- and to all our
friends at LURC
from

Jean and Mike

Wishing you all
a
Peaceful & Blessed
Christmas

Joan Bailey

WITH GREETING TO
THE CHURCH FAMILY

WISHING YOU ALL
A JOYFUL AND
HAPPY CHRISTMAS

FROM:

Marjorie Mulligan

CHRISTMAS
BLESSINGS TO ALL
DOROTHY F. ARTHUR
BROWN

Joan Armitage sends
Christmas Greetings
& Best Wishes
for the New Year
to all.

To all our friends,
Wishing you all a
very happy Christmas

With love

Mel & Jerry Canning

We pray that this Christmas
and throughout the year ahead,
you all know the love and
peace which Jesus brings.

"May the joy of the Lord
be your strength" (Neh 8.10)

Sarah and Norman Smyth



Wishing all a very
JOYFUL CHRISTMAS
and a happy, healthy
and peaceful
NEW YEAR
Winked • John Scopes.

Hopefully, Greetings
from Sheffield but
if I'm still here
Christmas greetings
anyway! Love
Sue Cragman

Joyous Christmas Greetings
Wherever you may be!
My thanks to many friends
For taking care of me.

I pray Lord for all those
Suffering and at strife
May your stupendous power
Bring peace and give new life.

Friends on this Christmas morn
Let's voice our praise and sing
To our Holy Father
And to his Son-our King.

With love & wishing you every God's blessing.

Kath.

Brenda and Brian
Tuppen wish all in
the church a Happy
Christmas and many
blessings in the
coming year.

To all our friends
at Lindfield U.R.C:
We wish you a
joyous Christmas
time and a peaceful
2006.
With love from,
Terry + Alison.

TO/ALL FRIENDS
AT THE URC CLUB,
Wishing you all a
Blessed Christmas
from

Lily Watson
Roy Monday



Feature - Your Christmas Greetings



HAPPY CHRISTMAS
To you all!!

THE
Tingleys

To all our friends
at L.V.R.C. wishing
you Joy and Peace
at Christmas.
We thank God for
your loving and caring
fellowship.
From Brian. Sue Tester.

HAPPY
Christmas
to All

Love
David & Fay
Jones

Warmest Christmas
wishes to all our
good friends in
the U.R.C. and a
very Happy and
Healthy New Year.
With our love
Tony & Margaret xx

Wishing all our
Church Family
a Happy Christmas
& Peaceful New
Year

Betty & Roy

MAY THE LOVE OF
GOD BRING YOU
JOY AND PEACE
THIS CHRISTMAS.

DENNIS ROWELL



Gladys & Andrew Muir
send Christmas greetings
and every good wish
to all members of
their church family

To all our friends in the
Church
We wish you a joyful &
peaceful Christmas &
every blessing for
2006.
Audrey & Donald

MAY LOVE COME DOWN
AT CHRISTMAS
AND BE WITH OUR
FRIENDS AT
LINDFIELD URC
GLADYS AND PAUL PORTER

With all good
wishes for
Christmas &
the New Year,
from
Audrey & Ray.

To All My Friends
at the LURC.
Hope you have a
Happy Healthy and
Blessed Christmas
Evelyn Lea

WISHING ALL MY
CHURCH FRIENDS A
VERY BLESSED
CHRISTMAS
and a peaceful
New Year.
God bless you all
from
Rika COOPER.



Feature - Your Christmas Greetings

ANNE PARKER WOULD
LIKE TO WISH ALL
THE MEMBERS OF THE
WINDFIELD URC FAMILY
A VERY HAPPY
CHRISTMAS AND A
PEACEFUL NEW YEAR.



Happy Christmas
and a
Peaceful New Year

Val & Colin Lane

Emmanuel. God with
us !!

May you know His
Peace and Love
this Christmastime
and in the New Year
Our love to you all
IRIS & BILL

David, Lydia, Joe
and Freya
wish you all a
very Happy
Christmas and
peaceful New Year!
God bless you in
2006 !

Warmest greetings,
good Health & Happiness
this coming season,
to one and all.
Sally Forster.





(Some of our...)

Christmas traditions

For several years now on a Saturday in November, we bundle into our car and drive down a bumpy farm track in Scaynes Hill. When we arrive at our destination we climb out of the car, don our welly boots and face the challenge of choosing our Christmas tree. Sam Hoare-Ward first mentioned this “Christmas Tree Farm” to us and it has become a firm tradition in our family. After collecting our name tag from the farmer we spend up to an hour wandering amongst thousands of nearly identical trees until the perfect specimen is located. There is always much “discussion” regarding shape, colour, height and variety. Our tag is then fixed proudly to the tree like a flag for all to see. Last year by coincidence we met up with the Goodys, Barlings and Tingleys who were embarking upon the same adventure and again this year we shared our search with them. I can’t wait until December when Joe (aged six) and I go back to dig it up and bring it triumphantly home!

David Goodchild.

Christmas 1965: We had to stay overnight at my parents with our two young daughters as the snow was too thick to drive home from Banstead.

1982: A very different experience sitting in the open air beside the garden tomb in Jerusalem for a carol service. Unforgettable.

2000: Spent in hospital (Princess Royal) after a major operation. Staff were lovely, even buying a present for each patient kept in over the period. Santa visited and I even managed some of the Christmas dinner – plus a large hamper from a daughter.

2004: We stayed for four nights at Pilgrim Hall with fabulous food, good worship, parties, games and loads of laughs.

2005: ??????????????????????

Hilary Shepherd.

My most interesting memory of Christmas present is of when I was doing my training in 1948-50 at University College Hospital....

In those days everyone (including Surgeons) worked over the holiday and patients were not sent home as they are today.

We spent days, if not weeks, making decorations for wards. We put them up on Christmas Eve and took them down on 27th December.

The highlight of the Christmas was carol singing around the wards late on Christmas Eve and then all going to the local church for the midnight service.

Getting up at 6:30 am was a bit of an anti-climax.

Mary Comber.



December church diary

3rd

Saturday 8.45 – Sat a.m. Prayer
9.30am Meeting @ Tiger

4th

Sunday

9.30am **Communion Service**
Adrian Cookney
& Colin Bones

The Forerunner
– John the Baptist

Malachi 3: 1-5,
Philippians 4: 4-9,
Matthew 11: 2-15

11.00am **Healing Service**
Colin Bones

6.30pm David Nibloe –
Prayer & Praise

7th

Wednesday 6.00pm
– 9.00pm **Village Night**

10th

Saturday 8.45 – Sat a.m. Prayer
9.30am Meeting @ Tiger

11th

Sunday

Jigsaw Sunday
Worthing Churches
Homeless Project

9.30am David Goodchild
+ WHPC team

11.00am Colin Bones
+ WHPC team

The Throne in Heaven
– Revelation 4: 1-11

6.30pm **Communion**
David Nibloe &
Colin Bones

14th

Wednesday 11.30am Lunch Fellowship
Christmas Lunch

Please note change of
time this month:
lunch at 12noon.

16th

Friday 12.30pm Lunch Fellowship
Christmas Lunch

17th

Saturday 8.45 – Sat a.m. Prayer
9.30am Meeting @ Tiger

18th

Sunday

Carol Services
All-Age Christmas
Service

9.30am David Nibloe &
Stuart Dew

Fairtrade Stall Between Services

Make Christmas His
Story

11.00am Colin Bones
– Carol Service

3.00pm Colin Bones
at Balcombe

Reflections on Christmas

6.30pm Adrian Cookney
& David Jones
– Carol Service

21st

Wednesday 7.30pm **Traditional**
Christmas
Carol Concert.
Silver Band,
Choir & lots of
Carols!



24th

Saturday

Christmas Eve Carol Service – “Jesus-Prince of Peace”

A reflective service
7.00 pm Colin Bones

25th

Sunday

Christmas Day Service Family Celebration

– “Rejoice in Jesus”
10.30am Colin Bones

1st

Sunday

New Years Day Service

10.30am Colin Bones

OTHER LOCAL EVENTS LISTED ON BACK COVER

Sunday services explained...

The **9.30am service** is an opportunity for all age groups to join in a relaxed informal time. There is a crèche, and after about 20 minutes children and young people up to age 14 go out to their own groups on most Sundays.

Coffee is normally served between the morning services and after the evening one.

The **11.00am service** is usually more set and formal.

At **6.30pm** it is sometimes a celebration, sometimes a quieter ministry time and sometimes an open communion service or something quite different!

Personal prayer is available after every service. Prayer requests and brief statements of praise for answered prayer can be put in the red book on the concourse table. We can also offer personal prayer ministry at home or in hospital.

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

Cassette **recordings of services** can be borrowed free from the church.



Worthing Churches Homeless Projects

Once again during December we shall be supporting work amongst the homeless through the Worthing Churches Homeless Projects, an organisation with a distinctively Christian ethos offering support and help to mainly single adults. During our morning services on 11th December we shall be welcoming a visiting team from Worthing to get an update on recent news and plans for the future. Don't miss it!

Throughout the month there will be an eye-catching display in the church concourse, with photos and free literature. Browse at your leisure during weekday mornings when the church is open. To whet your appetite, Alison Godfrey, the Projects' Fundraising and Public Relations Manager, writes:-

"Greetings Friends!

Can you believe that December has come to us again! I am so looking forward to being with you again and telling you about our work.

We are celebrating winning the national Faithworks Community Award for our work. It is a reflection of the hard work and commitment of our staff, volunteers and the support we receive from the church community. The £5,000 grant that is part of the award will

be used for the direct benefit of clients by providing social activities. These activities will help clients to gain a sense of purpose and be an opportunity to explore their own potential. Thank you for the role you have all played in helping us to achieve this nationally recognised award.

The Recovery Project will be our new project for 2006. We have recently been blessed in finding the perfect property for this residential project and we have taken a step in faith by





purchasing it, with completion on 1st December 2005. This project will need £1.8m to purchase the property and secure its future for three years. At this time we have £1.1m, a fantastic achievement for a relatively small charity, I am sure you will agree, but still £700,000 short of its target. The Recovery Project will be a medium term accommodation project, for people to stay for up to two years whilst they address their drug and alcohol use. I will be telling you more about this when I visit. In the meantime we are working closely with our prospective new neighbours around the Recovery Project as we help them with any concerns or questions they may have. We would welcome your prayers and friendship at this time.

With my best wishes
In Christ
Alison



For more information visit
www.wchp.org.uk

Christmas Card Collection

- If you would like to send a Christmas Card to friends in the church, you are welcome to use the church's Christmas Post Box.
- It will be available from Advent Sunday (27th November).
- The final posting date is Friday 16th December.
- The cards will be sorted and ready for collection on a table at the back of the church on Sunday 18th December.
- Any donations will be gratefully received and will go to TearFund. There will be a collection box on top of the post box for this purpose.
- To help with sorting, please can you use the full address on your envelopes.

Thanks and Happy Christmas,
Christmas Postbox Team

Men's Breakfast

Saturday 14th January 2006 8.30 a.m. – 10.00 a.m.

RELEASING HOSTAGES - Real life stories from the Middle East during the Lebanese Civil War

One of our current local Hospital Chaplains (David Goodenough), was from May 1987 to July 1993 based in Cyprus working for the Middle East Council of Churches, which included being an advisor to the Archbishop of Canterbury on negotiations to secure the release of the western hostages. David witnessed the power of God at work during these tense and difficult times.

Do join us and perhaps bring a friend for a traditional cooked breakfast, followed by the inside story of the above.

For catering purposes, please contact Ray Smith (484427), Ron Goodenough (417002) or David Jones (483037) for advance free tickets.



Heather Swann

When did you learn to play the piano?

I started as a young child – I think I was about 6 or 7.

Have you got a piano at home and what sort is it?

Yes – an upright.

Have you ever used an electronic keyboard?

I've got an electric piano – that's the nearest I will get to it. I'm not into keyboards really.

What style of music/composer/piece do you prefer most?

Classical, light classical really – and my favourite composer is Mozart, no favourite piece, I just love all his music.

Which keys do you prefer playing, the black ones or the white ones?

(Laughs!) No – you just need them both!

What is the most frustrating thing about playing the piano?

I can't improvise. I would love to be able to play without music, but I can't. In worship I'd love to be more free with my playing really – that's all I'm asking.



If you weren't playing the piano, what other instrument would you like to play?

That's an interesting question because I'm left handed and I like playing the guitar, but it would have to be round the other way. I'd probably look at the flute, but again whether being left handed would affect it – it probably wouldn't affect it, so probably the flute.

Does your left-handedness affect your piano playing?

No, it doesn't, because you're using both hands.

Do you play outside the church at all?

Yes, I do play in Peter's group, The Perdido Players.



Family News

Congratulations

to **Kitty Wood** who celebrates her 100th birthday on 19th December.

Kitty has also been a member of this church for nearly 80 years.

New Address

for **Elena Mullen** has moved to:- 43 Colwell Gardens, Haywards Heath, W Sussex RH16 4HG. Telephone number 01444 440763. Please amend your Who's Who.

for **Ken Long**:
6 The Sycamores, Scotia Road, Fishtoft, Boston, Lincs PE21 ORU. Tel 01205 362125

Thanks

September 2005: Members are often recording their appreciation for help given in a time of need, and we would like to be added to the list. We have been very grateful for cards, messages, prayers, visits and practical help during the times of Lyn's hospitalisation for a hip revision and during the time of recovery. Our sincere thanks to so many. God bless to you all.

Richard & Lyn Tucker

Ed: Apologies for the lateness in printing this note, I fear it got lost in 'cyberspace' at the time!

Can you help?

Has anyone got a lonely old fashioned wooden clothes horse hiding in their loft?

I would like to give it a home where it will be useful.

Evelyn Lea Tel 01444 484496

Christmas Greetings from Dave and Pam White.

"May we wish you all a Joyous Christmas.

We want to thank you all for your faithful support for us, we are humbled by your generosity.

We enjoy hearing all the news of Lindfield URC, and would like to thank Heather Swann for sending Good News each month.

Highlights of 2005 for us have been the trip to Egypt, to see the opportunities for our OM team there. Also our sixth grandchild was born in April, and in September we celebrated 40 years of marriage. The Lord is Good."

Last minute Christmas greetings:

John, Carol, Simon and Helen would like to wish everybody a very Happy Christmas. **With Love from the Merretts**

FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship meets on Wednesday December 14th at 2.45pm for their Annual Christmas Tea. There will be entertainment of a festive nature. Do come and join us.



The Three Churches Saturday Morning Prayer Meetings

For some time now a number of members from the three Lindfield churches have been meeting for prayer on Saturday mornings between 8:45 and 9:30am and meetings start and end punctually. The venue rotates between the three churches; in December it will be at the Tiger.

The sessions are led by different members who focus on matters that lie on their hearts, and then the meeting is open to any situation, whether individual,

national or world.

These are great opportunities to pray for and be aware of what is happening in our nation and how our freedom as Christians is under threat.

THE TRUMPET CALL IS SOUNDING AND WE NEED TO MAKE A STAND!

If you wish to know more please speak to any of the following,
Aubrey or Norna Derham, Janet Drayton, Ray Smith, Heather Swann, Dennis Rowell.

Balcombe United Reformed Church

**Bramble Hill, Balcombe, RH17 6HR
Contact: Mrs Leonie Wren (01444 811253)**

A reminder that we are now holding services we starting at the earlier time of 10.30am. Services for this month are as follows:-

December 4th Barry Piper – 10.30am

December 11th Philip Wren – 10.30am

**December 18th CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT – 3.30pm
– Colin Bones**

CHRISTMAS DAY – Philip Wren – 10.30am



Visitors are most welcome to join us at any time, including our afternoon Carol Service. Tea and mincepies will be served after this service.



Attacks were “premeditated”

CHRISTIAN schools throughout Pakistan will go on strike today (17 November) in protest at the attacks on believers in Sangla Hill, Punjab, on Satu.

In Pakistan’s worst outbreak of anti-Christian violence since gunmen attacked a church on Christmas Day 2002, a mob destroyed the Roman Catholic, Salvation Army and United Presbyterian churches in Basti Asyia, Sangla Hill village, accusing a Christian man of desecrating the Koran.

According to eyewitnesses, the attack appeared to have been premeditated, as the mob was brought into the village in buses.

Source: Christian Herald 17.11.05

It’s a Boy

A Christian charity is sending a film about the Christmas story to every primary school in Britain after hearing of a young boy who asked his teacher why Mary and Joseph had named their baby after a swear word. The Breakout Trust raised £200,000 to make the 30-minute animated film, *It’s a Boy*. Steve Legg, head of the charity, said: “There are over 12 million children in the UK and only 756,000 of them go to church regularly. That leaves a staggering number who are probably not receiving basic Christian teaching.”

(Source: Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent, The Times)

‘We must learn to get out of God’s way’

DEBATES in the General Synod of the Church of England are like scenes from the film *Groundhog Day*, the Archbishop of Canterbury said last month.

In a wake-up call to the Church’s legislative body, Dr Rowan Williams told the 476 synod members to use their ingenuity to “get out of God’s way when he is moving”. He went on: “That depends a great deal on our working in a way that suggests we really do believe that God exists.”

In his presidential address at Church House, Westminster, to the newly

elected synod, he said: “Synod may be a legislative body, it may be a sort of parliament, it may feel variously like a debating society, an amateur dramatic society, an interminable revising committee or a scene from *Groundhog Day*, but beyond all of this it is part of our Church’s way of discerning God’s purpose for us, and it is utterly meaningless if we lose sight of that.”

In the film, a cynical weatherman has to relive the worst day of his life over and over until he becomes a better person.

(Source: Times Online, November 17 2005)



Santa Smiles!

The four stages of life

- 1) You believe in Santa Claus.
- 2) You don't believe in Santa Claus.
- 3) You are Santa Claus.
- 4) You look like Santa Claus.



Practical Tricks to Play on Santa

1. Instead of milk and biscuits, leave him a salad and a note explaining that you think he could stand to lose a few pounds.
2. While he's in the house, go and find his sleigh and write him a speeding ticket.
3. Leave him a note explaining that you've gone away for the holidays. Ask if he would mind watering your plants.
4. While he's in the house, replace all his reindeer with exact replicas. Then wait and see what happens when he tries to get them to fly.
5. Leave a note by the telephone telling Santa that Mrs. Claus called and wanted to remind him to pick up some milk and a loaf of bread on his way home.
7. Throw a surprise party for Santa when he comes down the chimney. Refuse to let him leave until that huge cake arrives.
8. While he's in the house, find the sleigh and sit in it. As soon as he comes back and sees you, tell him that he shouldn't have missed that last payment, and take off.
9. Take everything out of your house as if it's just been robbed. When Santa arrives, show up dressed like a policeman and say, "Well, well. They always return to the scene of the crime."
10. Leave Santa a note explaining that you've moved. Include a map with unclear and hard-to-read directions to your new house.



Christian Viewpoint For Men (CVM)

One of the main reasons Lindfield URC became a member of CVM in 2004 is because CVM exists to try to equip every local church 'to introduce every man in the UK to Jesus Christ', which is clearly needed when you consider that of the 28 million men in the UK, less than 3% regularly attend Church.

CVM's Annual Conference for 2005 was at Britannia Royal Court Hotel, Coventry from 14 – 16 October, and this year as well as the writer, Alan Smith (80 years young), his son Michael & Peter Henton (Pete and Dee in fact moved to Rugby earlier this year) attended. The theme was 'A man after God's heart' and in the main sessions we were led, by 4 excellent Speakers, through the Old Testament Books of Samuel learning of David, of his calling by God, his actions/successes/failures as a husband/father, at work and as a Leader.

Additionally, there were further optional seminars Saturday afternoon and pre-breakfast prayer and praise times. The meals were first-class and allowed opportunities for the exchange of ideas with some of the other like-minded men.

Also, our emotions were stretched by a mime-artist, several moving testimonies and inevitably, with men meeting together, a good amount of humour/jokes (only one example this year of someone receiving a call on their mobile phone during one of the Sessions leading to a penalty of 10 press-ups up the front in view of everybody).

However, for the writer the highlights were the whole-hearted singing and worship from 400 men throughout the weekend, and a Big Sunday Service which was followed by 'The Lords Table, worship & Ministry',

Why not join us in 2006? The dates are 6 – 8 October, and the theme 'His Master's Voice', covering such aspects as What is God saying to us as a Nation / Church / individually, about our private spiritual life / family life / outreach at home and at work / participation in church activities / work : home : life balance.

Ray Smith



URC Christmas Greetings



The United Reformed Church Southern Province Synod

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Synod Clerk: Dr Graham Camping
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Dear Friends

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS 2005

Had any surprises lately? I have: the totally unexpected blessing of satellite navigation in my new car (I call her Betty) – never again can I arrive late legitimately telling you I was lost! I was also surprised by the delight of a windfall due to an overpaid bill. In quite another realm, Bethan, Jess and I have been overwhelmed by the kindness that has been shown throughout a year when Jess, our daughter, has been far less well than we would have wished; we are deeply grateful to so many of you – thank you.

So, yes, life is full of surprises. Some of them, of course, are grimmer than others as the personal lives of too many of you in 2004 will have testified. In the same way, as we celebrate Christmas we will mark the first anniversary of the tsunami that surprised us all in the most terrifying way imaginable on Boxing Day 2004. Even that horror, though, brought with it the heart-warming surprise of humankind's generous response as money was given for the rebuilding of communities and of devastated lives.

Of course, one might say it's bit sad that we are surprised by human kindness – after all, most of us know more nice people than nasty ones, don't we? But for me, the absence of surprise would be more worrying – it would suggest that we have started so to take for granted things like decency, generosity and thoughtfulness that we no longer give them the value they truly have as building blocks of a humane society.

It's not all that different with the incarnation, I think. Here is one of the core events, one of the fundamental doctrines on Christianity: that God is amongst us in the living Lord Jesus Christ, full of grace and truth. Some measure of understanding of that has been part of my life since, at the piano stool, my mother taught me 'Jesus loves me, this I know'. Every Christmas we recall it, celebrate it, contemplate how to respond to it. It's part of the warp and weft of life. Yet still 'the Word made flesh' surprises me. And thanks be to God that it does. For surprise is what stirs wonder, wonder is what affords faith, and faith is what breeds hope. I hope and pray that I will never lose the surprise at the heart of Christian discipleship. It keeps my faith alive, it transforms many a disaster into a moment of opportunity, and it inspires one to remember whose the glory is.

As the United Reformed Church goes through its process of review and re-formation it seems to me that there is a tendency towards tiredness and disappointment. Even pessimism about where it will all get us to. As one of you put it to me, 'the vision is so ordinary'. And so it will be if it is rooted in our ideas, initiatives and energy levels. It's Christmas we need – every day in the church – so that we never lose our surprise, our wonderment that the Word is flesh and dwells amongst us full of the grace we need, full of the truth we crave.

So as Christmas comes round again – be surprised by the God whose we are and whom we serve; by hope for the church, hope for yourself, hope for the world, hope.

Love, Joy and Peace be yours, this Christmas and for 2006.

Nigel Uden
Nigel Uden



Books of the Bible

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the bible (merely a fluke); it kept people looking so hard for the facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalised. But now the truth finally struck home to the numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some difficult ones to spot; others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a Minister to find one of them. There will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady I know, she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there are really sixteen names of the bible hidden in this paragraph. One Preacher found fifteen books in twenty minutes, but it took him three weeks to find the sixteenth one!

Now you've read it, can you find sixteen books of the bible hidden in the above paragraph? Some are easy, others not so. You need to run some words

into their neighbours. Enjoy the puzzle.

ANSWERS:

Mark, Luke, Kings, Acts, Revelation, James, Ruth, Numbers, Job, Amos, Esther, Judges, Titus, Lamentations, Hebrews, Peter,



Flower Rota

Arranging

- December
- 4 Dorothy Forster
- 11 Iris Green
- 18 Hilda Donegan
- 25 Christmas Decorations

Distributing

- Barbara Shepherd
- Iris Bingham
- Fiona Tingley
- (No delivery)

January '06

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Christmas Decorations | Heather Swann |
| 8 | Gladys Porter | Sue Tester |
| 15 | Mies Campling | Dorothy Forster |
| 22 | Vera Dorten | Betty Peter |
| 29 | Mary Comber | Jacqueline Wood |

I would like offers of help for evergreen decorations in the church. These will be needed to be in place prior to the Christmas concert on the 21st December. Please see me or phone on 484494 if you can help.

Betty Billins.



Church activities

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

- 9.30am Service for all the family, including crèche and Junior Church
(Most weeks, children leave after 20 minutes for their own activities)
Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
- 11.0am Morning Worship
Holy Communion (4th Sunday)
- 6.30pm Evening Service
Holy Communion (2nd Sunday)
- Healing services as announced*

PRAYER MEETINGS:

- Mon 9.30am An Hour of Prayer
- Wed 9.45am Short Service of Intercession
- Thur 8.00pm Church Prayer Evening
(4th Thursday)
- Sat 8.30 Three Churches Prayer Meeting.
– 9.45am Venue rotates between the three churches.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES:

- Sun 6.30pm Sunday Evening Youth Group
- Mon 6.30pm Boys' Brigade – Junior Section
(8–11 years)
- 7.45pm Boys' Brigade – Company
Section (11+ years)
- Tue 10.00am Stepping Stones
(Parents and toddlers)
- 7.45pm In Touch (4th Tuesday)
- Wed 2.45pm The Fellowship (4th Wed.)
- 5.30pm Zest 1:2, 3:4
- 6.45pm Zest 5:6:7
- 7.15pm Zest 8+
- Thur 10.00am Pop-In (for coffee and a chat)
- 8.00pm Church Meeting (2nd Thur.)
- Fri 5.30pm Boys' Brigade – Anchor Boys
(5–7 years)

House Groups normally meet 1st and 3rd Thursday

The church is open Monday to Saturday
from 10.00am to 12.30pm

Phonebook

Church (payphone):

01444 484620

Minister's office number:

01444 487607

Boys' Brigade:

Geoffrey Cocksedge
01444 474007

Cradle Roll:

Sue Tester 01444 482810

Flowers:

Betty Billins 01444 484494

Hall Booking Secretary:

Audrey McKee 01444 415031

In Touch:

Sue Waller 01444 455047

Lunch Fellowship:

Wednesday:
Janet Drayton 01444 456161

Friday:

Gwen Hillman 01444 456963
Anne Parker 01444 473519

Magazine: Editor:

David Tingley 01444 451024

The Fellowship:

Jessie Green 01444 452708
Roy Billins 01444 484494

Stepping Stones:

Janet Goodenough
01444 417002

Transport:

Tina Elphick 01444 484440

Youth and Children's Work

Co-ordinator:

Iris Green 01444 484117

Junior Church

& Zest Co-ordinator:

Clare Nibloe 01444 484683

Local events



Pakistan Earthquake Appeal

The Perdido Players Swing Band

will be playing at the **King Edward Hall** in aid of the above appeal and not as mentioned in the November Magazine.

**Saturday
3rd December
7.30pm**

For further information and your free tickets, please contact Peter Swann 01444 450335 or Tom Burford.

Lindfield United Reformed Church Traditional Christmas Carol Concert

**Wednesday
21st December
7.30pm**

Silver Band, Choir and lots of Carols!

Lindfield Times

is now available and delivered free to over 3000 homes in Lindfield.

Christmas Village Night

**Wednesday
7th December
6 – 9pm**

A host of stalls and other activities including a visit to **The United Reformed Church** from Father Christmas.

To publicise your community event here see contact details on page 2. Diary entries included at the editor's discretion.