

**Dear Friends...**



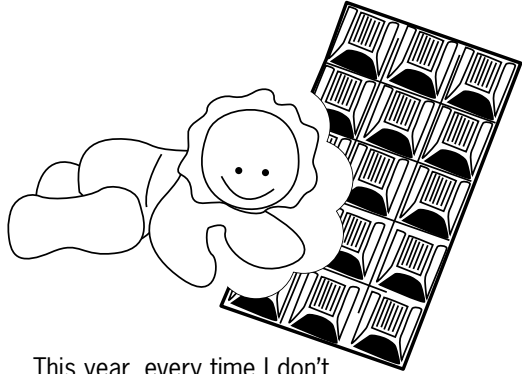
## Jelly babies and chocolate!

**W**hen I was at college I would give up chocolate for Lent!

Yes – I really did manage it – I might have overdosed on Jelly Babies instead – but I stood my ground. At every denial of chocolate offered to me, I had a chance to explain why I was doing it... well, to be truthful, I would just say, “I’ve given up chocolate for Lent”. People would nod, smile and probably secretly think that I was a nutty religious freak who was denying myself chocolate to please a non-existent God, who, if he did exist, obviously didn’t care about all the pain and suffering in the world, so wouldn’t give two hoots about some teenager who was making a miniscule dent in Mr Cadbury’s profit margin!

So why do some Christians still give up something for Lent? What makes Lent any different from those New Year resolutions that last a week (at the most)?

Lent, like Advent, is a time to spend even more time than normal thinking of Jesus. However, unlike Advent, this isn’t the excited expectation of His birth, but rather a more solemn meditation on the other end of His life on earth. The reason He came to earth in the first place.



This year, every time I don’t have a cup of coffee or I forgo a chocolate, I will remember that Jesus died for me. The temporary suffering of my caffeine denial isn’t a patch on Jesus’ suffering in His last few weeks on earth.

Every time I fail and succumb to the temptation, I will remember it even more. My imperfections mean I could never be good enough to spend eternity with God. Jesus’ perfect death means I can.

“For God so loved the world that He sent His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.” JOHN 3:16-17

Praise God for the hope of heaven in a fragile and scary world.

*Suzu Jacques, elder*

# GoodNEWS

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## Directory



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## Editorial



**You can think of this month's magazine as a bit of a 'menu of delight' if you like.**

You see, for all those blokes who forgot Valentine's Day in February – don't get caught out with your mothers too! Iris Green and Sam Hoare-Ward gently remind us of what motherhood is all about (**Page 4**).

If you are after just a 'snack', in this issue are fascinating facts on the new local village swan (**Page 8**), and information about the two-week national opportunity to focus on fair trade and what we shoppers can do all year round – see **Page 16**.

If you are into the Arts, there are some tempting forthcoming theatrical productions which merit your consideration (**Page 18**).

Twenty Questions, our regular squint into the mind of a church-goer, is off the menu this month, but will be cooking nicely again by April – so wait for it!

Of course, the normal diet of news, events and prayer pointers are on offer. Particularly nice 'specials' come in the form of a "what it means to be a church member" (**Page 24**) and a member-away's report; how university life is treating Katy Lewis (**Page 22**).

All filling stuff, get stuck in!  
David Tingley, editor

# Prayer Diary



<b>SUN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank God for Sundays and for our church family.</li> <li>• Pray for our worship; especially for those preaching God's word.</li> <li>• Remember Junior Church and the young peoples' leaders.</li> </ul>
<b>MON</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank God for the start of another week.</li> <li>• Uphold your own family to our Lord.</li> <li>• Pray DAILY for the peaceful resolution of world conflicts.</li> </ul>
<b>TUE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Praise God for the work of our Brigades.</li> <li>• Ask God to equip and encourage all BB and GB staff.</li> <li>• Ask God's blessing on the 'In Touch' meeting (25th).</li> </ul>
<b>WED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank God for Colin Bones and pray for him and his family.</li> <li>• Pray for United Reformed Churches at Polegate, Hampden Park, Langley, Crowborough, Hassocks &amp; Uckfield.</li> <li>• Please pray for our mission focus – Mercy Ships.</li> </ul>
<b>THUR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Let's thank the Lord for the United Lent Study Groups.</li> <li>• Pray for all involved, especially the speakers.</li> <li>• Ask for God's wisdom for world leaders and their decisions</li> </ul>
<b>FRI</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank God for all the gifts God has bestowed on our fellowship.</li> <li>• Pray for the Women's World Day of Prayer on 7th March.</li> <li>• Lift to God the meetings of URC Synod (8th) and Mission Council (25th).</li> </ul>
<b>SAT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Praise God for His beautiful creation, and pray for His intervention, that an act of war may not destroy it.</li> <li>• Pray for members of our armed forces and their families.</li> <li>• Uphold members of our fellowship whose names begin with E,F and G.</li> </ul>

Good news! It was great to have more folk sharing at the last Church Prayer Evening! Please join us on Thursday 27th to pray for our Nation.

Mothers' Day is on 30th March this year, so now the rest of us have no excuse for forgetting! In aid of this auspicious celebration, GoodNEWS goes in search of what real life is like for mothers today and what changes as your children grow up.

# The sixty minute mother

**I**t's entitled "The Sixty Minute Mother" because it allegedly only takes an hour to read, it took me two, I must be a slow reader! But that two hours was crammed full of humour, touching stories and insightful pearls of wisdom.

The book is split into eight chapters on subjects such as motherhood and working (that is both in the home and the office), single mothers, sick mothers, mothers and their guilt, finishing with mothers letting go. Rob Parson's narrative is witty, compassionate and often moving, it's full of little bits of good advice and liberally sprinkled with true stories and letters from the many mothers he has come into contact with in his work with families. Between each chapter are short sections titled "Sixty Second Wisdom" and "Take a Break". These are little snippets from mothers themselves and very good for reading in the two minutes that a mother may find spare in her day.

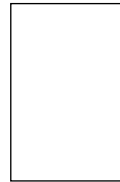
The chapter entitled "When a

Mother Accepts" asks what is the best thing you can give your child. The obvious answer is love but Rob Parsons has more to say, he believes that acceptance is the greatest gift, especially in our modern world where everybody has to look good and be the best. He says that we need to let our children know that we accept them just the way they are, which comes with love.

**"I accept you irrespective of what you achieve."**

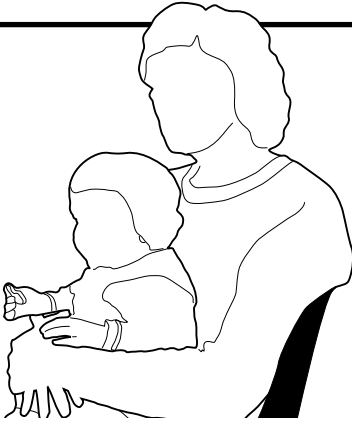
Constant comparison comes with the territory when you have friends with children of a similar age to yours; who is the first to walk, first to say "Mummy", learn to read or play the piano. Does any of this matter? NO! But we are all guilty of this in some way, we just need to accept our children as they are.

I found motherhood hardest the second time around. Yes, when I had Ben everything changed, you have this small person who is totally reliant on you for their every need and whim, 24 hours a day, every day of the year. But when I had



### BOOK REVIEW

"The Sixty Minute Mother" by Rob Parsons



Alexandra there were suddenly two of them, including a two year old into everything and leaving a wake of chaos wherever he went. The first year of Alex's life was tough for the whole family, I found it extremely difficult to cope and felt a complete failure. Of course, eventually things get easier and now the good times far outweigh all of this and I do enjoy motherhood. Now that Alex is at school I struggle to remember where the years have gone. I still feel guilty about those first years of Alex's life but like it says in the book...

**“Motherhood goes with guilt like a horse with a carriage”.**

The Sixty Minute Mother is a thoroughly worthwhile read in which Rob deals with the stresses of motherhood of all ages from birth to teens. In my opinion Rob Parsons has achieved his objective that he wants mothers to yell out,

**“Thank goodness this is not just me”.**

*Sam Hoare-Ward*

## Superwoman!

*“Women’s work isn’t what it used to be. No longer ‘tied to the kitchen sink’, women are now expected to juggle a challenging career with 2.4 well-adjusted children, and still have time for the occasional night out and visits to the gym. And yet, in many ways, little has changed and research shows that women today work harder and longer for less pay and status than men. For some, sexual harassment, exploitation, guilt and exhaustion all come as part of the package.”*

## PRAYER WORKS...

**What a challenge! This month, why not pray particularly for women you know who may be feeling that life is a bit of a juggling act.**

If you are a woman challenged by these issues, Bev Shepherd and Stephanie Heald run a course at The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity.

# Being mum – upon reflection

**In order to get a different perspective on motherhood David Tingley talks to Iris Green, mother of Sam Hoare-Ward, to find out what it is like when the children are all grown up.**

**Iris & Bill have three children: Sam lives in Haywards Heath with her husband and family, Matthew is in New York with his wife and their family and Chris is resident to Perth, Australia where he has a Fiancee.**

She tells me that it's "really special" now having grandchildren, but says it is hard only visiting the family in America twice a year. "I really appreciate the technology available today – to enable us to communicate." She describes the Christmas message that they received via email this year from Perth. Taken on a webcam on Christmas day, Chris & Dionne were able to deliver a recorded video message to share with them back in the UK.

Iris grew up in North London, her parents brought them up in a disciplined environment. "My dad was very strict, a bit of a disciplinarian actually, but it was always clear that they always just wanted the best for each of us." It was not a Christian home, but Iris was encouraged to attend Sunday School, and it

was there she found faith in Christ at the age of 11. Her mother used to attend church in Iris' teenage years, before she suddenly died when Iris was 21.

As an expectant mother, Iris says she remembers her biggest fear was arriving at the hospital and being left in a room on her own during labour. This is exactly what would have happened except that Bill managed to buck the 'normal' trend of the day and be with Iris during that first birth. As the hospital was 7 miles away and it was the early hours of the morning, with neither car nor public transport to return Bill home, this clearly played in his favour, she recalls. The problem didn't arise again as both the boys were born at home!!

When times were difficult ("and it wasn't always easy") Iris explains that she always found it helpful to share her worries with other friends with children. She knew that she could always talk to God, and she did by all accounts, but to hear that someone else had similar issues was a real comfort to her. She

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tried not to get dragged into comparisons with friends' children and says that their Christian faith helped them develop all their children to be caring towards others. She reminds me that God calls us to look at the whole person and not just grades or achievements. "That was always very important to me" she says.

Iris remembers as they grew older: "I always tried (although did not always succeed) to accept their point-of-view, and not fall out with them over issues like going to church". Through teenage years

especially, she can remember being caught up in the emotional hurts of her children, be it relationships or whatever. "You never stop caring, but as they get into

adulthood I guess you become more of a 'sounding board' for them."

Iris has an idyllic picture of an old farm hanging in her lounge. She tells me how it reminds her of their holiday destination for 12 years – a farm in Devon. "Bill worked long hours, so the holidays were lovely family times together." As she describes the simple but fun antics they got up to whilst away, it almost sounds

like the typical British summer holiday – and I mean that as a good thing! "We didn't go to all the fun parks that there are available now" she says, "children and families are catered for so much better these days."

One thing Iris reckons has made motherhood a little easier in the 21st century is disposable nappies. "You get so many sizes, types and they fit really easily" she explains, a far cry from her twin-tub washing experience! All in all, Iris says she is very thankful for her

children's upbringing. "It is great to see when your own children grow up and develop into adults. Maybe not knowing where they might go during teenage years, but then

finding their own niche." Iris recalls seeing Sam become captain of the Girls' Brigade being a wonderful feeling.

Iris and Bill clearly brought up their children in a disciplined, Christian home, but trying not to forget to do so with loads of love and humility, as, I guess, Christ would. Although they can step back a little now, their family is always in their prayers.



# Lindfield's new celebrity

**If you have taken a gentle stroll past the pond in recent weeks you can't have failed to notice the disappearance of the adult pair of swans and the arrival of a solitary "ugly duckling" – an immature Mute Swan still with some of its brown feathers which will gradually turn into that characteristic, dazzling white plumage during the first year of its life.**

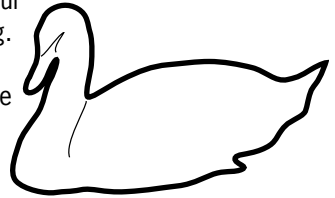
The enchanting children's story of the not-so-attractive youngster on the block tells us that we should value potential above popular first impressions.

The Mute Swan, whose name probably derives from the fact that it is silent in flight, is Britain's largest native bird (around 11kg for an adult male). They are, of course, a protected species but this was not always so. In medieval times swans were domesticated for food, their owners marking either beak or web for identification. Such marks were registered with the Crown, but any unmarked birds became Crown property. Since it was illegal to kill a "royal" bird this arrangement undoubtedly saved the species from being hunted to extinction in Britain.

Swans often pair for life (but

not always) and breed in the same place year after year.

The cygnets usually hatch during May and sport their first covering of a soft greyish down, soon to be replaced with the drab brownish plumage – which is where we came in. Oh, and by the way, research does show that well-established pairs tend to be more successful at raising their young. Whether our new resident takes a mate remains to be seen!



According to my friend (Lindfield resident, Joe Lunt) the directional flight control of the Mute Swan is one of the many wonders of God's creation. That majestic "unmissable rhythmic sighing sound, which can be heard from more than a mile away" produced by the main flight feathers of the Mute Swan serves to keep the birds in contact whilst airborne. I agree, it is amazing!

If you haven't seen our new resident yet, why not take a stroll down to the pond? If you know anything more about him, or the whereabouts of the adult pair, why not drop a line to the editor.

*John Barling*



## New radio laws

United Christian Broadcasters (UCB) reported some positive changes in radio licencing in their latest newsletter.

Ian Mackie, CEO for UCB recently received a letter from Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP, in which she said: "More spectrum is [now via Digital Audio Broadcasting] available for radio, and there is no longer a strong case for the ban on religious bodies holding national digital sound programme service licences".

Clearly this will have a major impact on groups like UCB, and is an amazing answer to many years of prayer.

Source: UCB In Focus, Feb 2003

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## Local schools in Christian opera

Haywards Heath-based 'Opera Brava' have chosen pupils from Lindfield, Haywards Heath and Cuckfield to take part in a production at Chequer Mead Arts Centre during April.

'The Promise' – a modern, multimedia opera based on the Bible – gives children the opportunity to take part in performing, staging and rehearsing the production alongside professional musicians and opera singers.

Source: Mid Sussex Matters

## Unity in wedded bliss

Britain's religious leaders are to lead a campaign to shore up marriage after Cabinet ministers withdrew Government backing and money.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Chief Rabbi and Muslim and Sikh leaders will all issue statements supporting National Marriage Week, which no longer has Government support. They will stress the positive aspects of formalised relationships and encourage people to talk about their marriages.

Richard Kane, the businessman who has run Marriage Week for the past seven years, said: "Marriage Week is to remind couples to stay true to each other and learn to love one another even more".

To mark National Marriage Week, civil registrars and 25 church leaders will sign a Community Marriage Policy similar to that which exists in 160 cities in America.

Source: The Daily Telegraph (01.02.03) Sarah Womack

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## Euro rules to force churches to employ atheists

The Daily Telegraph reported in January, some proposed new regulations based on a European Union directive.

The laws ban discrimination in the workplace by religious organisations on the grounds of religion, belief or sexual orientation.

The Christian Institute is particularly angry that the same principles don't apply to everyone – allowing, for example, the Labour Party to continue its policy of employing only party members, while a church could face legal action for not employing a homosexual on the grounds that sex outside marriage is against Christian teaching. A report by The Christian Institute proposes that the regulations undermine religious freedom in this country.

Source: Daily Telegraph

### Thanks

"I must send a very sincere word of thanks to all my friends at Lindfield for their most generous gift of £400. It was my privilege to be your interim moderator and your fellowship during 2002 was a delight. Thank you for sharing yourselves with me, for wishing me well in my future ministry and, in particular, for giving me this splendid gift. I am sure you will know God's richest blessing as you and your new minister are led into all He has in store for you. With love in the Lord."

**Charles Martin**

**Michael Lea** wishes to thank all his church friends for cards, good wishes, visits and prayers and continuing support for Evelyn during his stay in hospital.

### New Church Members

It was good to welcome four friends into membership recently. They were; **Ann Elvin, Liz Jadav, Alan Smith and Fiona Sutherland.**

### Bereavement

We offer our love and sympathy to Janet Drayton and her family on the recent death of Janet's mother Letty Patterson. Letty had reached the grand age of 95. The thanksgiving service was held on 21st January.

Please add two addresses to your Who's Who.

**Ann Elvin**, 9 Greenhill Way, Haywards Heath.

Tel: 01444 456840.

**Liz Jadav**, 66 Brookway, Lindfield. Tel: 01444 410493.

### Change of Address

From 3rd March 2003, **Mies Brock** will be living, temporarily, at the following address:

c/o Mr & Mrs R Exall

Park Farm House,  
Broxmead Lane, BOLNEY,

West Sussex RH17 5RJ

Tel: 01444 881694

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### Sunday Morning Singers

Next rehearsals are 7th and 14th March at 8.00pm.

### Women's World Day of Prayer

The service this year is on Friday 7th March, at Lindfield United Reformed Church, at 1.45pm.

The order of this service has been prepared by the women of Lebanon, taking as their theme 'Holy Spirit, Fill Us'. The speaker on this occasion is the Rev Betty Scopes.

There will be a creche provided, and refreshments will be served afterwards. A very warm welcome is extended to all.

*Winifred Scopes*

# Churches studying together

### Three Churches United Lent Groups

These will be held on Wednesdays from 12th March commencing at 8pm and will be held at the United Reformed Church.

We will be studying 'Jesus in the Old Testament – the Promise to Fulfilment'.

Each evening will commence with a short time of worship, followed by some teaching and then we will break into small groups for discussion.

Coffee/tea/horlicks will be served from 9.30 to 10 pm for those wishing to stay for fellowship.

Our final meeting will be on Maundy Thursday which will also be a Communion Service.

Lindfield URC House Groups will not be meeting during Lent to encourage and enable as many people as possible to attend.

### The Fellowship

The next meeting of the Fellowship is on Wednesday 26th March at 2.45pm. Our guest speaker will be Mr Trevor Dyer and he will be telling us about his work with the United Christian Broadcasters Ltd. Tea and biscuits will be served at the close of the meeting, please join us and bring a friend.

### What about the 'mission field'?

'Into the fire' – this is the title of a get together that will be held at Pilgrim Hall, just off the A22 south of Uckfield, on Saturday the 22nd March from 8 to 10 pm. There will be speakers from SAMS, OMF Crosslinks and Interserve who hope to answer the following questions. Should I stay, should I go? Where should I go? What about the children? What about this country? Am I too old? Am I too young? What about finance? This will be a great opportunity to learn more about mission at home and abroad. See the church notice board for more details.

## Balcombe United Reformed Church

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**Bramble Hill, Balcombe, RH17 6HR**

**Contact: Mrs Leonie Wren (01444 811253)**

Our main services are held at 11am on the first and third Sunday of each month and the children usually go out to Sunday School during the second part of the service.

**Speakers for this month are as follows:-**

**2nd March** David Walters

**16th March** Ron Goodenough



# Mercy Ships

**2003 is a very special year for Mercy Ships as they celebrate 25 years of bringing hope and healing to the world's poor.**

Mercy Ships began in 1978 with the purchase of a retired passenger vessel, the Victoria, which was renamed Anastasis, Greek for "Resurrection". This ship is still in service with Mercy Ships and is now equipped with three operating rooms, a 40 bed hospital ward, four cargo holds and facilities for more than 400 crew.



In 1994 Caribbean Mercy joined the Anastasis and between the two ships, 70 ports on 6 continents have been visited and many lives changed. Since 1978 over 8,000 operations have been performed on board the ships mainly on cleft lip and palates, cataracts, crossed eyes, orthopaedic and facial reconstruction. Workers also go ashore and work in village medical clinics, teach local health care workers and provide dental treatments.

Mercy Ships have also provided tens of millions of pounds of medical equipment and have also completed over 350 construction and agricultural projects. The newest Mercy Ship, Africa Mercy, is undergoing a refit in Newcastle at the moment and Mercy Ships vision is for 10 ships to sail worldwide, serving 1 million people per year. Above all, Mercy Ships continues to experience and demonstrate the nature and character of a loving God by meeting physical needs and sharing the message of spiritual hope.

For more information please see the mission board in the concourse, or visit their website [www.mercyships.org](http://www.mercyships.org).

Please give in the normal way by picking up a missions envelope from the table in the church concourse and placing it in the weekly offering. Thank you.

## **NIKKI TAYLOR**

With Mercy Ships as our mission focus this month, please pray especially for Nikki Taylor – our regular missionary columnist – and her final months with the organisation.

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## My world

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Missionary tales by Nikki Taylor

# Borah sees her son

### Borah's eyes grew wide.

Her son stood before her, with his grey hair and joyful laugh. For the first time in five years, Borah could see him!

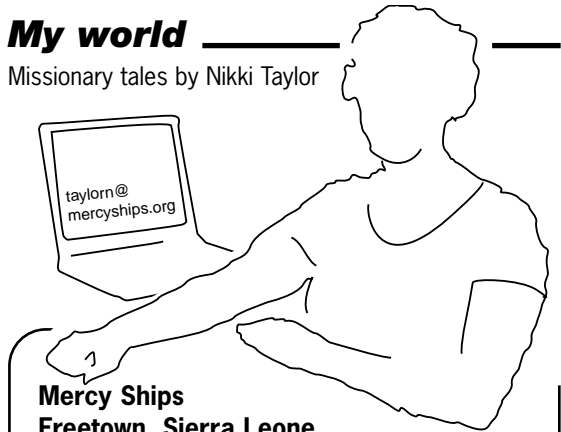
Cataracts had blocked her vision, but at least her daughter could take care of her, feeding her, cleaning her, and leading her around. But when the rebels invaded, the two became separated during their flight into the jungle. Borah had to fend for herself in a small village where many rebels stayed, depending on the kindnesses of unseen strangers to lead her around and give her food. Occasionally, some would help her bathe.

Finally, her son learned of her whereabouts and brought her to live with his family. He took her to the Mercy Ships surgical screening where the medical staff selected her for an onboard surgery.

When the nurses took off the post-surgery protective shields, Borah began shouting for joy, touching her son's face and clothes, hugging him and singing a song in her own language.

"Look at my mom! She was blind!" he told onlookers. "Now she recognizes me for more than my voice!"

[www.mercyships.org](http://www.mercyships.org)



### Mercy Ships Freetown, Sierra Leone

Incredible how fast time flashes by here, it must be the West African Indigenous Time (WAIT)!

It seems impossible I have only a month to go. I just don't have enough time to do everything. The ship leaves in one week and with her my best friend Wendy. I am going to miss her so badly she is the most wonderful friend I have ever had.

The ship is indeed a fabulous resource and what is their junk is our treasure. They were throwing out some old furniture including two horrid little stools that are perfect for the staff to sit on while they treat the patients in the rehabilitation suite. Wendy was very pleased by my haul.

I am suffering from a crush on one of our team members this last month! I have liked him for a while and each time the ship comes I have liked him more. Now I have those fluttery feelings! I know in these situations I need to talk to God about my feelings. I really want a partner to share my life with and he has expressed the same desire. But I don't think he was talking about me. I am way over the hill and think it is really time God did something about this. Surely He can't have intended me to be single!?! The Bible study we had tonight was all about Saul and how he pre-empted God and disobeyed him. So I know I need to wait on God and hear from him before acting. Aarggh, this is so hard for an impatient person!

## March diary

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**2nd**

Sunday

**9.30am** Richard Walters  
& Gerry Willis

**11.0am** Gerry Willis

**6.30pm** Mike Gardiner

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**3rd–16th**

**FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT**

Look out for info locally

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**6th**

Thursday

House Groups

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**7th**

Friday

1.45pm Women's World  
Day of Prayer – LURC

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**8th**

Saturday

10.30 – noon  
Lindfield Christian Care  
Home 'Open Morning'  
with Cake Stall

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**9th**

Sunday

**9.30am** Richard Walters  
& Rev James Webb  
(Assoc. Minister of Haywards  
Heath Baptist Church)

**11.0am** Rev James Webb

**6.30pm** Communion  
David Nibloe & Ron  
Goodenough

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**12th**

Wednesday

12.30pm Lunch  
Fellowship  
8.00pm United Lent  
Group (Three Churches)

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**13th**

Thursday

8.00pm Church  
Members' Meeting

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**14th**

Friday

12.30pm Lunch  
Fellowship

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**16th**

Sunday

**9.30am** Richard Walters  
& Barry Piper

**11.0am** Barry Piper

12noon Copy Date for  
April GoodNEWS

**6.30pm** David Nibloe  
& Philip Wren

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**19th**

Wednesday

8.00pm United Lent  
Group (Three Churches)  
8.00pm Lindfield  
Preservation Society  
"The Way Ahead" at the  
King Edward Hall.

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**23rd**

Sunday

**9.30am** Richard Walters  
& Rev Alan Wharton

**11.0am** Communion –  
Rev Alan Wharton

**6.30pm** David Nibloe &  
Rev David Winwood  
(Minister of Haywards  
Heath Methodist Church)

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**25th**

Tuesday

7.45pm Ladies 'In Touch'

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## 26th

Wednesday 2.45pm The Fellowship  
8.00pm United Lent  
Group (Three Churches)

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## 27th

Thursday 8.00pm Monthly Prayer  
Meeting

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## 30th Sunday

*Mothering Sunday*

**9.30am** Richard Walters  
& Martin Hall

**11.0am** Norna Derham's  
House Group

**6.30pm** David Nibloe &  
Rev Philip Burroughs  
(Minister with Brighton  
Group of URCs)

**Next *Good*NEWS  
out 30th March**

# village events?

Contact the editor to inform  
him of local events in April.

## 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.

# Shopping to make

**Where climbing into a bed with freshly laundered sheets ranks pretty high on most peoples “feel good” ratings – your alarm going off early in the morning must rate pretty highly on the “feel bad” ratings.**

This is probably true even more so for those, who like me, see the big number ‘5’ still on their alarm clock in the morning. It usually takes a good ten minutes before I summon enough willpower to swing my legs into action and stagger to the shower to start another day. That is another day in a job that I enjoy, nice office, with a close friend as a colleague, tea and coffee on tap throughout the day and a healthy standing order into my bank account at the end of the month!

You may feel a little sorry for me, having to get up so early – I certainly do at times! Yet across the world there are millions of people who get up at the crack of dawn, seven days a week, and work every waking hour, just in order to scrape together enough money to buy food and keep a roof over their heads. Often many can’t even afford

that. So, clearly, others have it much worse than me.

March 3rd–16th is fair trade fortnight. Fair trade guarantees a better deal for Third World producers. It’s simple, you choose to buy fairly traded tea, coffee, bananas, cocoa and chocolate from your local supermarket and people in the third world get paid a fair price so that they can buy sufficient food and can even send their children to school. If you want to do more, you can log on to websites – such as [www.traidcraftshop.co.uk](http://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk) and [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk) – to find an even greater range of products, including rice, honey, wine and handcrafted gifts.

So – you tried Fairtrade tea or coffee years ago and it tasted like warmed up mud... please try it again. It has much improved.

If you still don’t believe me, on Sunday 9th March we will be giving out free samples of Fairtrade tea and coffee in between the morning services and after the evening service, when you can also enjoy a mug of Fairtrade coffee or tea with a Fairtrade biscuit.

*Suzy Jacques*



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# the difference

**The Fairtrade Foundation is replacing its current FAIRTRADE mark in order to:**

- improve its visibility on supermarket shelves
- convey a dynamic, forward-looking image for Fairtrade
- join with the international Fairtrade Labelling movement in the introduction of a single certification mark
- facilitate cross border trade
- simplify procedures for fresh fruit growers.

Gradually it will replace the original 'F' mark and both marks will run concurrently until the end of 2003.



**FAIRTRADE**

Guarantees  
a **better deal**  
for Third World  
Producers

**March 3rd–16th  
is fair trade fortnight**

## **Ernesto del Carmen Garroz, a farm member of the co-op in Chile**

Vino Los Robles is 200km south of Santiago in the Curico valley, where wine production plays an important part in the local economy. The 50-strong co-op, along with El Corazon, a member of Los Robles, guarantees the farmers a fairer price for their grapes.

Through the support of Los Robles and fair trade, El Corazon has been given a loan to develop 20 hectares of new grape varieties and install an irrigation system. So, in the future, the farmers will benefit from increased income and Los Robles from a greater supply of good grapes – all helping to make a difference.



Source: Traidcraft's Fair Trade catalogue

# From creation to redemption

Take 40 people from the remote townships of South Africa. Ask them to perform on a London stage, singing in seven languages, the principle ones being Afrikaans, Xhosa, Zulu and English. Using plastic dustbins and oilcans they perform a medieval mystery play with dance, music and comedy. You may immediately say “not for me”, but this is a production I went to see last year. I did not know what to expect either, but it was a wonderful moving experience. ‘The Mysteries’ is now back on the London stage at the Peacock Theatre between 3rd – 8th March. See church notice board for any further details or check out [www.themysteries.co.uk](http://www.themysteries.co.uk).

You may not be able to attend but do pray for the many people who will. They will be happy to pay to see the Bible enacted, from the creation to the crucifixion, but may refuse to step inside a church. What sort of message is this sending to us? Although I am not proposing that we should all be singing in Afrikaans!

*Bill Green*



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# A remarkable summer day

**The Wintershall “Life of Christ” has a bit of a reputation, by all accounts! It was started in 1999 by Peter Huntley (owner of the estate just outside Guildford) as a unique production in preparation for the Millennium. Due to its success it has been repeated every year since – and plays to crowds of up to 18,000 a year!**

The Daily Telegraph says of it: “A small miracle has occurred six miles out of Guildford. People have been flocking from all over the country to see a Nativity play

in a barn that has been converted into a theatre”.

This event does take place in the open air – so you need to be prepared for rain or shine and, I gather, a fair bit of walking as you see the show in the grounds between 10.15am and 4pm!

The three act play is showing between 24th – 29th June this year – they say EARLY booking is a must in order to get tickets. More info at [www.wintershall-estate.com](http://www.wintershall-estate.com) or call 01483 892167.

*Oh, and if you do go along, tell us, at GoodNEWS, all about it!*

# Streetmate

## **“Never heard of it!” do I hear you say?**

Well, I hope you will in the future, as it is the name chosen by some young people for the Churches Together Youth Project, which is in operation in partnership with National Children’s Homes (NCH). If you remember, this was a three year project set up to try and meet some of the needs of vulnerable young people – and most of us are vulnerable over something.

Although the Youth Worker, Jenni Addison, spoke at the United Service at the Dolphin Centre on 24th November, I have been asked to provide a short report to keep people informed.

Jenni started work in June, and is supported by a Management Committee drawn from Churches Together, and NCH who is the legal employer. Much of the first weeks were taken up with writing policies and procedures, as this is new work. Jenni has now met a considerable number of young people through schools and other organisations, and a limited amount of street work.

She is now actively working on four projects: –

- (1) The provision of Youth Shelters in the Ashenground, Bentswood and Victoria Park areas, working in conjunction with the Police, Councils and Residents Associations.
- (2) The opening of the Kiosk in Victoria Park at selected times to provide refreshments, information/advice leaflets and a safe meeting point.
- (3) HOT (Haywards Heath Outreach Team) working with the WSCC Youth Service to be able to reach more people.
- (4) Recruiting, and training with the help of NCH, of volunteers to help with all aspects of the work.

**If you would like to be involved, we would love to hear from you!**

Valerie Colgate (01444 453780)

Churches Together in Haywards Heath and District

## Boys' Brigade report



**A**t our first meeting in January, Matthew Heyward, on vacation from university, was present to receive the Queen's Badge from the hands of the Battalion President, Mr Derek Hinton.

At the end of December, Terry Ward stood down as our Company Captain, after 30 years service as an Officer in the 1st Lindfield. We shall be recognising Terry's service to the Company at our annual Display on Friday 11th April, when he will be our Chief Guest and Inspecting Officer.

May I remind all our friends of that date again, Friday 11th April, 7 pm; all are invited to

come and support the Boys, and see them demonstrate some aspects of their work, and receive the awards for which they have worked hard. By then we shall also know the outcome of various Battalion competitions for which the lads are currently in training.

Despite the problems we encountered earlier in the session, the Company is in good heart, and working for better times. We stand for the greatest and noblest ideal in the world: the Advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys: how can we fail?

*Geoffrey Cocksedge*

?

*Questions  
of life?*

*CAN WE HELP?*

**Come in for a chat,  
or to pray.**

**See our church website:  
[www.lindfieldurc.org.uk](http://www.lindfieldurc.org.uk)**

**Or check out:  
[www.rejesus.co.uk](http://www.rejesus.co.uk)**

**Remember: God is always interested in all our lives**

# Heaven-sent opportunities

Last month we printed an emotional and very honest testimony from 25-year-old Rachel Levell, who found faith in Christ at the end of a very long, low road of mental and physical pain and anguish. During her time sick, she was introduced to a Christian organisation called 'Freedom in Christ'. She paid tribute to one person who practically helped her through the time and find Jesus again. This is Beverley's story...

**I still get excited when I read Rachel's testimony and think back over the last year.**

It is a year ago since Rachel first wrote to Freedom in Christ, desperate and suicidal. I reply to all types of letters that come in, but Rachel touched my heart immediately because she was going through the same stuff that I had gone through and I wanted so much for her to know the freedom that I had found.

When Rachel rang out of the blue asking if I would take her in immediately I could not turn her down, as I had been trying to encourage her to come for so long! Rather apprehensively, we drove to Kent to collect her. I had only met her briefly on one occasion previously, and she had been so heavily drugged she could barely open her eyes. Other than from her (many!) letters, I didn't really know her at all.

Several people have said over the last few weeks 'I think it's

really great what you're doing, but I couldn't do it!'. I don't really know how to respond to this because if somebody hadn't done the same for me 15 years ago, I wouldn't be here writing this now. I possibly would not be married to Paul or have two super sons and a normal life to lead. Rachel, and others like her, need the same opportunity and, unless others are willing to sacrifice themselves in this way, they may go through life like this forever, constantly in and out of mental institutions and suffering needlessly.

**"if somebody hadn't done the same for me 15 years ago, I wouldn't be here writing this now"**

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*Originally printed in Greyfriars Parish Church magazine, December 2002. To read Rachel's full story you can download our February 2003 magazine from [www.lindfieldurc.org.uk](http://www.lindfieldurc.org.uk)*

# Student life in London

**Every morning I wake up to the sound of bus tyres screeching, taxis hooting, people shouting, and the ever-present ‘evangelist’ shouting through a megaphone outside my window; “are you a sinner, or are you a winner?”**

Quite different, really, to the quiet little village of Danehill, where I've spent most of my not-quite-twenty years up until now. London never slows down, and never gets dark; there are cars and people about even at four in the morning when any sensible person is fast asleep in bed. And living in halls is a far cry from a family home in Sussex; the place is always a tip (no parents chasing after you with a vacuum cleaner and a dishcloth), it constantly smells of smoke, and yet there's a real community environment here. You don't need to go far to borrow that cup of sugar and there's always someone wanting to go out, or just sit around and chat at all hours of the day (and night).

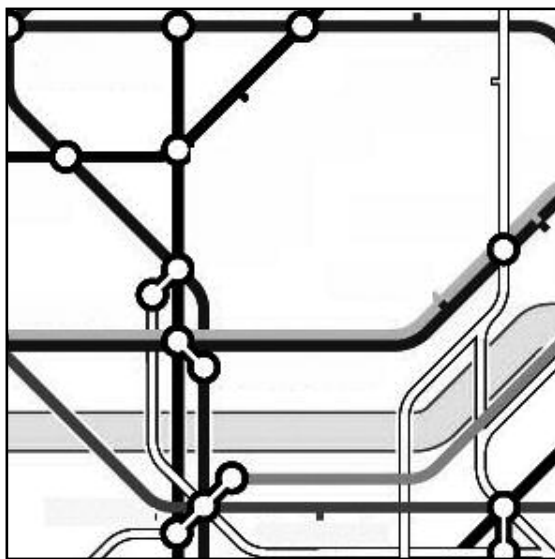
Close proximity to Leicester Square leaves us spoilt for choice when choosing to go out, and living on the continuously

busy Oxford Street gives the freedom to walk home in the wee small hours of the morning without having to worry about being alone.

The Christian Union (CU), too, is very active within the university, providing pastoral support for its members and plenty of evangelistic opportunities from casual coffee bars (free coffee, biscuits and Christian speaker) to running our own Alpha course.

I'm a group leader for the current course and found the role of 'facilitating discussion' – Alpha-speak for saying nothing but 'oh, that's interesting' and 'what does anyone else think' – one of the hardest things I've ever had to do. Just sitting and listening to fellow students, from complete atheists to dedicated Christians of many years, trying to prove/disprove Christ's existence without sticking my oar in (which, I confess, is something I do only too well) was an immense challenge. I think I prayed harder and faster in those forty-five minutes than I ever have before!

I've also been introduced to the tangled web of Union politics as the CU struggles to gain an



Let's see, socializing, Christian union, churches... oh, yes, the studying! Contrary to popular opinion, students do work at university, especially those poor speech and language therapy

equal footing with the other societies; because we're a religious group we don't receive Student Union funding, cannot accept donations and struggle to hold fundraising events – and as for putting up Alpha posters, it's unthinkable!

As much as I've enjoyed 'church-hopping' in my first term, I thought it was about time I attached myself to a single church, and have recently joined St. Helens in Bishopsgate. I've also become part of the CU worship group, where I stand at the front and sing as quietly as ever I did at Lindfield!

students who have to leave at 7am to travel to work placements, or attend – shock horror – 9.0am lectures nearly every day. NINE O'CLOCK! Can you believe it? And they say next year it will get even worse!

Still, despite the work load I'm thoroughly enjoying the course, and find it hard to believe how quickly the time has flown by. Less than two months until we begin study-leave for exams, and by the end of May I'll have finished for the summer – who knows what will happen then!

*Katy Lewis*

# More than a social club

**Michael Davies tells us why church membership is not just paperwork for national church organisations – it's about faith! Plus two of the newest members of Lindfield URC tell us why they made the decision.**

**The church really is the fellowship of those who accept Jesus as their Lord and saviour and friend. We are all different (if God had wanted us to be the same, he would have made us that way), so we all worship and serve him differently – but we all belong.**

Paul calls the church the “body of Christ” – which is a pretty good picture. Read again 1 Corinthians 12:12–27 and Colossians 1:18 – it's all there. He is the head – each of us is a limb or organ with our own jobs to do. But we are all vital to the proper functioning of the whole body. Jesus needs us all to carry on His saving, healing work in a very needy world.

An evangelical preacher, irritated once by someone saying “I can be a Christian without going to church” retorted testily “you can cut your hand off and put it on the table – it would still be your hand – but useless to you and everyone else”.

When we make our profession of faith and join the church one of the promises we make is “..trusting in God's grace, to be faithful in public & private worship, to live in the fellowship of the church and to share in its witness”.

Jesus calls us to be His disciples – together, working in our different ways to establish his Kingdom. That is why, if we believe in Jesus, we are church members.

*Rev Michael Davies*

## **WHY... IN BRIEF!**

- *Because we believe in Jesus – that He loves us and forgives us for putting ourselves first.*
- *Because we want to follow Him – we are ready to let Him become the centre of our lives and so change us.*
- *Because we want to belong to His family (the church) and carry on his work.*



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*Liz*

"I suppose it's a declaration of commitment – I'm not just a visitor, I'm a part of the family – or furniture, hopefully! These are the people who support me, and the church family that I support. This is particularly important for me, as I am so often 'just passing through' – becoming a member is me saying, 'I'll see you soon. Another important distinction is this – when I'm passing through, I ask for and receive prayer and encouragement. Now that I'm sticking around I want opportunities to be on the giving end.'"

*Fiona*

"When I moved to Haywards Heath from Scotland, I was walking through Lindfield with some Scottish friends, when we all commented on the posters outside the church, how friendly and welcoming the church looked. The following Sunday I arrived between services. One of the 'welcomers' spotted me, came out and invited me in. Being shy, I declined, but she gave me a 'Good News'. I read it with interest. Next Sunday I arrived for 9.30am, was warmly welcomed, enjoyed the singing, musical accompaniment and listened with interest to the minister. He was speaking to me it seemed! After the service some people enquired if I was new here. They welcomed me to the church and the area. With such a lovely welcome from the 'welcomers', the family of the church and the wonderful message from the Gospel (then the Rev Norman Smith's preaching) – who wouldn't want to come to Lindfield URC."

If you are a Christian who regularly worships with us, and are challenged about the idea of membership, do have a chat with Ron Goodenough (01825 740351).

# You say, but God says...

It is easy to get discouraged when things are going badly. But we shouldn't give up, because God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of pain and suffering. Remember, next time your little hut is burning to the ground it may just be a smoke signal that summons the grace of God. For all the negative things we have to say to ourselves, God has a positive answer for it.

*Contributed by Norna Derham.*

<b>You say...</b>		<b>God says...</b>
'It's impossible'	} _____ {	'All things are possible' (Luke 18:27)
'I'm too tired'	} _____ {	'I will give you rest' (Matthew 11:28–30)
'Nobody loves me'	} _____ {	'I love you' (John 2:16 & 3:34)
'I can't go on'	} _____ {	'My grace is sufficient for you' (2 Cor. 12:9; Psalm 91:15)
'I can't figure things out'	} _____ {	'I will direct your steps' (Proverbs 3:5–6)
'I can't do it'	} _____ {	'You can do all things' (Philippians 4:13)
'It's not worth it'	} _____ {	'It will be worth it' (Romans 8:28)
'I can't forgive myself'	} _____ {	'I forgive you' (1 John 1:9; Romans 8:1)
'I don't have enough faith'	} _____ {	'I've given everyone a measure of faith' (Romans 12:3)
'I feel all alone'	} _____ {	'I will never leave you or forsake you' (Hebrews 13:5)

# Making ourselves clear

Firstly, as editor of this humble magazine, let me just say how much I appreciate the many contributions that people make to GoodNEWS. A large part of what our aim is about is to show the Christian church as a wide cross-section of folk – so a varied authorship is vital to indicating that.

Let me remind you of the broad readership GoodNEWS also enjoys. Now with distribution in shops/pubs/Post Office and, of course, the church – these pages can, and do, reach many far and wide. Therefore, it is important that when we write articles/items for inclusion we do not alienate some of the readership. As Evangelical Christians (there is a case-in-point!!) we do tend to have hundreds of buzz words and use ‘flowery’ language where it is not necessary. This can make it hard for people outside of the church to understand what we are saying, or simply make it seem out-of-date or irrelevant. So just a point to note – do write, and write for *everyone!*

*David Tingley*

## Flower Rota

		<b>Arranging</b>	<b>Distributing</b>
Mar	2	Carol Walters	Betty Peter
	9	Betty Billins	Jacqueline Wood
	16	Joan Durrant	Iris Bingham
	23	Dorothy Forster	Fiona Tingley
	30	Margaret Goodare	Heather Swann
Apr	6	Iris Green	Vera Dorton
	13	Carol Marsh	Sue Tester
	20	EASTER SUNDAY	Dorothy Forster
	27	Zoe McQuillin	Betty Peter

We are grateful for one new volunteer on the distribution rota. Anyone else who would like to join us in this pleasurable task would be much appreciated. Please phone Fo Tingley on 01444 483419.

## 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)
- 11.00am Morning Worship  
Holy Communion (4th Sunday)
- 6.30pm Evening Service  
Holy Communion (2nd Sunday)
- Healing Services as announced*

### PRAYER MEETINGS:

- Mon 9.15am An Hour of Prayer
- Wed 9.45am Short Service of Intercession
- Thur 8.00pm Church Prayer Evening  
(4th Thursday)
- Fri 7.30am Prayer Meeting in the Lounge

### REGULAR ACTIVITIES:

- Sun 6.30pm Sunday Evening Youth Group
- Mon 6.30pm Boys' Brigade – Junior  
Section (8–11 years)
- Tue 10.00am Stepping Stones  
(Parents and toddlers)
- 6.15pm Girls' Brigade – Juniors,  
Seniors & Brigaders
- 7.45pm In Touch (4th Tuesday)
- Wed 2.45pm The Fellowship (4th Wed.)
- 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)
- 7.30pm Boys' Brigade – Company  
Section (11+ years)

House Groups normally meet 1st and 3rd Thursday

**The church is open Monday to Saturday  
from 10.00am to 1.00pm**

## Phonebook



### Church Telephone Number:

01444 484620

### Boys' Brigade:

Geoffrey Cocksedge  
01444 474007

### Cradle Roll:

Sue Tester 01444 482810

### Flowers:

Betty Billins 01444 484494

### Girls' Brigade:

Margaret Luscombe  
01444 412156

### Hall Letting Secretary:

Audrey McKee 01444 415031

### In Touch:

Sue Waller 01444 455047

### Lunch Fellowship:

Wednesday:  
Iris Green 01444 484117  
Friday: Gwen and  
Derrick Hillman 01444 456963

### Magazine: Editor:

David Tingley 01444 451024

### The Fellowship:

Jessie Green 01444 452708  
Roy Billins 01444 484494

### Stepping Stones:

Janet Goodenough  
01825 740351

### Transport:

Tina Elphick 01444 484440

### Youth and Children's Work

#### Co-ordinators:

Stuart Dew 01444 413694  
Rob Biersteker 01444 440835

#### Junior Church Co-ordinator:

Clare Nibloe 01444 484683