

GoodNEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2002

The trials of justice



- Prisoners' Sunday 17th November
- The Bible like a book – The Message reviewed
- Village & church events for November

FREE
PLEASE HELP YOURSELF

GoodNEWS

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Editorial



I guess you, like me, have not failed to notice the winter evenings beginning to draw in! But never fear, in this issue there is plenty to inspire and amuse you in spite of weather conditions.

We have a special feature for Prisoners' Sunday, where Stuart Dew informs us of a few home truths about the Criminal Justice system, and gives us ideas to help out in wider society – **page 4**. On a similar theme, Suzy Jacques shares some thoughts from Corrie ten Boom, a victim in a concentration camp during the war, see **page 8**.

There are plenty of mission-related items this month – as we support OpenDoors for November (**page 20**) and we read the final part of Dickie Twort's newsletter (**page 22**) and the usual visit to Freetown, care of our resident missionary – Nikki Taylor – on **page 21**.

Kids fun starts with a story on **page 16**, and a competition to win some pre-Christmas goodies! If you are young then make sure you enter these regular competitions – get free stuff and get involved. Why not write about what's going on in your life?

Of course, you can check the family news on **page 9** and see events and services in November on the centre-spread – **page 14**.

David Tingley, editor



Michael Palin, when interviewed recently on TV by Michael Parkinson, said that throughout his travels he had not yet found 'paradise' on earth.

Strange, I thought, for paradise is all around if one only has the heart to seek and recognise it. You are probably thinking that it is easier to say than accept, especially when you see and hear of world events and experience as we all do at various times, personal difficulties. A paradise on earth is available, however, when the heart and soul is blessed by the Spirit.

It is then when one, by the power of God's spirit, seeks and finds that all things are made anew. It is when we recognise God's hand at work in creation – including people, objects, sound etc – then we are filled with awe, then we give thanks, rejoice in our Creator and cherish all that He has provided. At such times we glimpse and experience, perhaps only briefly, paradise on earth.

The most precious encounter of God's signature on earth must surely be all God's people. Each of us is unique, God inspired and made in His likeness (Genesis 1:27). If we accept that we are made in His image we must also share His nature. Our own nature, however, because of the fall of

Adam and Eve became clothed in the ways of the world and God's nature has become buried deep within our souls. Many consider they are comfortable with this (and many are not) yet within us all God's ways still dwell.

All when challenged acknowledge what is right and wrong, good and bad, truth and untruth, love and hate, light and darkness. Some people may argue that these qualities are of man who has come to define and refine them down through the ages in written law. To counter this viewpoint, who but God by His very nature within us has inspired these feelings that have written man's laws for living?

If then we acknowledge God's very nature dwells within us, then once atoned by the blood of Christ, His Holy Spirit will renew our hearts into His ways. We are then prepared and equipped for witness. With God manifestly within us is it not, therefore, key that we seize the opportunities that present themselves each day to help the unbeliever along the way to catch a glimpse of God and His kingdom?

Imperfect as we are let us shine the light of Christ with enthusiasm to the world. Let's pray that Michael Palin will one day find paradise on earth.

Mark Turner, Elder

Prayer Diary



SUN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For ourselves, that we may discern God's will • Lift up to God the person who may be considering the pastorate here • Pray for their family and the Church he/she may be leaving
MON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uphold our worship leaders/musicians and their preparation • Pray for those who go into the local schools from the three churches • For teachers and all staff at schools in this area
TUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The children/young people in our Brigades – that they may come to know Jesus for themselves • Mid Sussex YMCA which seeks to house homeless youngsters • World Aids Day on 1st December
WED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray that more people may desire to attend our regular prayer times (Mon 9.15am, Wed 9.45am, Fri 7.30am) • Iris Green and her team – Wednesday Lunch Fellowship • Last month's mission – Shoe Box and Samaritan's Purse
THUR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Church Meeting on 8th November • All those standing for election to the Eldership • For Charles Martin and Ron Goodenough • The Church Prayer Evening on Nov 28th
FRI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For inspiration & encouragement for the Evangelism Group • Gwen & Derek Hillman and team – Friday Lunch Fellowship • Remember with thanks those preparing to preach for us this month
SAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior Church, Carpe Diem and the 14+ Group • Prisoners, victims of crime and all those working in prisons • Michael Davies (Balcombe URC Interim Moderator) and Leoni Wren (Sec.) • Haywards Heath URC & Lewes URC/ Methodist

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY **EVERY DAY** FOR GOD'S CHOICE OF A NEW MINISTER. Also, for the on-going ministry at both Lindfield and Balcombe.

The URC Southern Synod Youth and Children's Work Forum presents

"Playing with worship"

An opportunity to attend one of two free workshops that address the issue of how the worship and learning approach in our churches reflects the needs of children and young people in today's culture.

Details from
Stuart Dew

"Godly Play" – This workshop will introduce Godly Play, an alternative way of presenting the Christian story to children, so that they can experience, explore and respond for themselves.

"Refreshing Worship" – This workshop will explore some of the principles and practice of alternative, creative worship relevant to the culture of today.

at St John's URC, Orpington, Saturday 2nd November, 10.30am-1pm

PERDIDO PLAYERS

Leader: Peter Swann with John Barling (vocalist)

On Saturday 30th November 2002 at 7.30pm
in the King Edward Hall in aid of St Catherine's Hospice.

An evening of musical entertainment and also a chance to dance, a chance to sing, to enjoy a hearty ploughman's supper, convivial company and help St Catherine's Hospice.

Tickets £7.50 available from Christine Giltrow, Tom Burford
and Peter Swann.

Saltmine Theatre Company presents...

THE VIGIL

by Ladislav Fodor

When a body goes missing questions arise. When the corpse belongs to the most controversial figure in history then an answer has to be found. The Vigil is the story of the search for that answer in the most potentially explosive trial the world has ever seen. A vivid re-imagining of the events surrounding the first Easter Sunday.

www.saltmine.org/stc. Touring the country in 2002/03.



sign up soon

**Tue 14 Jan 2003 –
Chequer Mead Arts
Centre, East Grinstead,
7.30pm. (01342 302000)**

**Contact Fiona Tingley,
who will organise a
church block booking.**

Keep the family

Sunday 17th November is identified as Prisoners' Sunday, when churches are asked particularly to focus upon prisoners, victims of crime and the workings of the criminal justice system.

Jesus reminded us (in Matthew 25) that when Christians feed the hungry, take in a stranger, care for the sick, clothe those who have nothing to wear, or visit those in prison, we do it for Him. Our church scores very well on caring for the sick, we arrange regular lunches for the elderly, and quite a few of us take our nearly new clothes to a charity shop for recycling – which leaves probably the more difficult options. My Life Application Bible describes these as simple acts of mercy; it says that as individual Christians we cannot hand over responsibility for them to church or government.

There are chaplains in the 136 prisons in England and Wales, who are helped by six thousand chaplaincy volunteers. Christian people are also involved in many other projects to assist the rehabilitation of offenders, or to support families

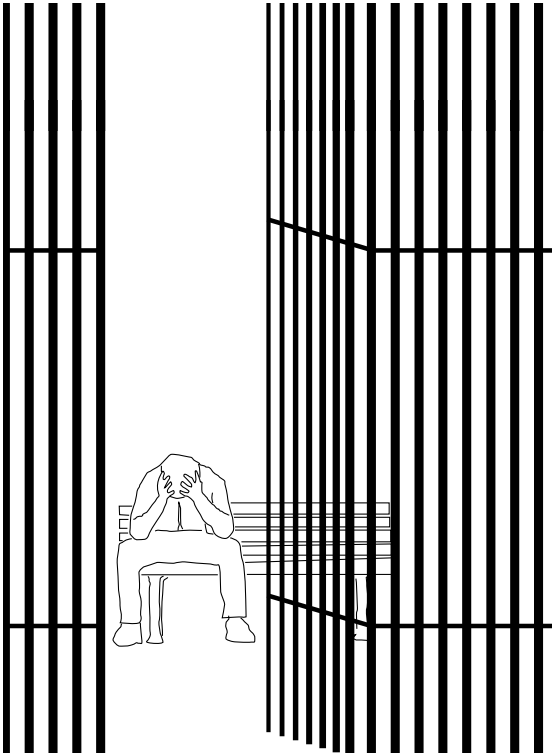
of offenders or victims.

Preserving the family ties of people in prison has been identified as one of the best ways of reducing the risk of re-offending, and the Churches' Criminal Justice Forum and other Christian organisations are promoting schemes which encourage this. A recent report from the government's Social Exclusion Unit noted that families are largely left out of decision-making concerning prisoners, and that prison visiting halls can be unpleasant and frightening places, particularly for children.

Traditionally, the English criminal justice system is adversarial in nature, setting the state against the offender, and leaving the victim and the community on the periphery. Restorative Justice schemes, which are now being used with some young offenders, offer an opportunity for dialogue, to arrange restitution, to repair hurt, and for the offender to take greater responsibility for his actions. The Churches' Criminal Justice Forum supports Restorative Justice as being in



ties



keeping with Christian principles.

Victim awareness, concern for wrongdoers, justice, repentance and restoration were all constant themes of Jesus's earthly ministry. One of the two villains crucified with Him admitted his wrong-doing on the cross. Jesus was clearly satisfied that his repentance was genuine and, although his was a capital sentence, he was restored within the Kingdom of God.

Stuart Dew

DID YOU KNOW?

80% of prisoners have writing skills at or below the level expected of a child of eleven.

70% of prisoners suffer from at least two major mental health disorders.

37% of women prisoners have previously attempted suicide.

The number of women in prison has gone up by 70% in ten years.

Compared with the general population, prisoners are thirteen times more likely to have been in care as a child.

Every year, 8,000 children suffer the consequences of a mother's imprisonment.

The risk of being a victim of crime is the lowest it has been for twenty years.

A majority of people asked, believe that people come out of prison worse than when they went in.

80% of young offenders sent to prison re-offended within two years.

So, what do you care?

one

When you read about harsher penalties for mobile phone thieves, do you think:

- a. It's got nothing to do with me. **A**
- b. I wonder if that's the best way to deal with the problem. **B**
- c. Sentences should be harsh – it's the only way to set a good example. **C**

two

You see someone working on a community sentence project.

Do you think:

- a. It's got nothing to do with me. **A**
- b. I hope they are learning a skill that they can use after their sentence is served. **B**
- c. They should be in prison, they have been let off lightly. **C**

three

You are called for jury service. Do you think:

- a. Can I get out of it? **A**
- b. It's a big responsibility. My decisions will affect people's lives. **B**
- c. I hope I get them sent down. **C**

four

A man approaches you and asks if he can phone home on your mobile; he left his car unlocked and it has been stolen. Do you think:

- a. I'll pretend not to hear and walk on. **A**
- b. This could be me, needing help in a situation like this. **B**
- c. It may teach him a lesson, to lock his car in future. **C**

five

If you unexpectedly had a windfall of £35,000 would you:

- a. Order a luxury yacht. **A**
- b. Use some to support a project that would make a difference to people's lives. **B**
- c. Offer it to the government to lock up one more offender for a year. **C**

If your answers are mainly B, you clearly have a heart for these issues. (If your answers are all A or C, we suggest a chat with an elder!).



HOW TO HELP

Ask if the chaplaincy team at Lewes prison requires volunteers.

Alpha courses are run in most prisons. Alpha for Prisons is looking for churches that will offer support for people on release.

Volunteer with Victim Support.

Offer to be a community representative on the panel which oversees young offenders on Referral Orders (an Order based on Restorative Justice principles).

Be a mentor for young offenders.

Support Mid Sussex YMCA. They have successfully run a housing scheme for young people for eight years; their involvement is coming to an end but they are looking for an opportunity to start another similar venture. They would love to have a Board member from our church .

Help serve refreshments at a prison visitor centre. Lewes

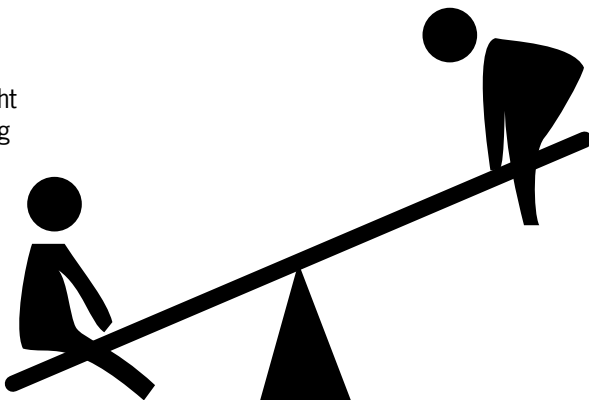
would be the nearest. Families have often travelled long distances and value a cup of tea before or after a visit.

Be a play worker. Prison visiting rooms generally have a play area for young children which may be supervised by volunteers. This can give parents the opportunity to talk about serious issues without interruption.

Get involved with Brighton and Hove FareShare, which re-cycles supermarket food past its sell-by date, but within its use-by period, for the benefit of the homeless.

Do what Christians do best – uphold these issues in your prayers.

This is by no means an exhaustive list. See Stuart Dew for further details.



Corrie ten Boom

"It was in a church in Munich that I saw him – a balding heavy-set man in a grey overcoat, a brown felt hat clutched between his hands... It was 1947 and I had come from Holland to defeated Germany with the message that God forgives... One moment I saw the overcoat and the brown hat; the next, a blue uniform and a visored cap with its skull and crossbones. It came back with a rush: the huge room with its harsh overhead lights; the pathetic pile of dresses and shoes in the centre of the floor; the shame of walking naked past this man. I could see my sister's frail form ahead of me, ribs sharp beneath the parchment skin ... The place was Ravensbruck and the man who was making his way forward had been a guard – one of the most cruel guards. Now he was in front of me, hand thrust out: 'A fine message, Fraulein! How good it is to know that, as you say, all our sins are at the bottom of the sea!' And I, who had spoken so glibly of forgiveness, fumbled in my pocketbook rather than take that hand. 'You mentioned Ravensbruck in your talk,' he was saying. 'I was a guard there.'... 'But since that time,' he went on, 'I have become a Christian. I know that God has forgiven me for the cruel things I did there, but I would like to hear it from your lips as well. Fraulein,' – again the hand came out – 'will you forgive me?'"

This is an extract from one of Corrie ten Boom's books "Tramp for the Lord" (Hodder & Stoughton). Re-reading three of her books I've been challenged in many ways. This is just one example.

Are there things that you are holding on to, which you need to forgive someone for doing to you? Like Corrie you might find this impossible to do in your own strength. If that is the case, please read on. I hope you will find that, where our human nature fails us, God is faithful to help us forgive.

Corrie knew she had to forgive him. God forgives our sins, but we are also taught by Jesus, 'But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will

not forgive your sins'.
(Matthew 6v15).

Yet Corrie also knew that forgiveness is not an emotion, it is an act of the will. So she prayed that Jesus would help her – if she lifted her hand to the guard, that Jesus would supply the feeling.

And as she did, warmth and forgiveness flooded through her. She knew God's love – it was not her love, it was the power of the Holy Spirit working with her willingness to obey God's commands.

If Corrie could forgive the cruelty of a concentration camp, can you not also forgive whatever wrong has been done against you?

Suzy Jacques

Managers' request

The Spring Clean that moved to the Autumn, has now been 'shunted' into Winter! The date is Saturday **23rd November** from 9am and your help would be appreciated. Please put your name on the notice board in the upper concourse. We will be cleaning parts that our contract cleaners rarely reach!

John Blake

Boys' Brigade Coffee Morning

Saturday **16th November**
10am – 12 noon. All welcome! Cakes for the stall would be appreciated! Contact Terry Ward (01444 482986) for details.

Trim up for hedge laying talk

The Fellowship will meet on Wednesday **27th November** at 2.45pm, when the speaker will be Mr John Blake who will explain the art of Hedge Laying.

Tea and biscuits will be served at the end of the meeting; there will also be a 'Bring and Buy' stall. Visitors will be made very welcome.

Nursing home celebrates own birthday!

Lindfield Christian Care Home – Compton House – reaches its tenth anniversary on 2nd November. During those years, 174 people have made it their home.

LCCH is held by a group of Trustees who explain: "The residents continue to enjoy looking at and sitting in the lovely gardens, going out on outings and taking part in various activities". The home prides itself on the excellent standard of care that its residents receive, a credit to the many dedicated volunteers and staff who work so hard.

Of course, over the years there have been staff changes. Notably Peter and Jennifer Diack, Olive Ward and Mies Brock – who are all now retired – and Charis Wilson, who moved elsewhere. Janis Daw is now House Manager and more recently Lesley Partington was appointed Matron.

As new statutory regulations come into affect, there are to be more changes to the Home, and the trustees ask for your special prayers for guidance and wisdom for themselves, staff and residents as these changes take place.

"As we give thanks for the past, we ask God's blessing on all who come to live and work at LCCH."

For regular info on LCCH, see page 28

Balcombe URC

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:-

3rd November Richard Tucker – Communion Service

17th November Mike Gardiner

New home

Mary and Chris Comber have moved to 33 Finches Gardens, Lindfield. Tel: 01444 482641

John and Anne Blake are having a 'movable feast' on 6th November from "Cumbria" to: 4 Upper Stables, Parkfield Way, Bolnore Village, Haywards Heath, RH16 4TA. Tel: 01444 448018

Katy Lewis' university address is: M7, Goldsmid House, 36 North Row, London W1K 6DN

Bereavement

We offer our love and sympathy to **Rosemary and Michael Davies** on the recent death of Rosemary's mother Edith. The service of thanksgiving was led by Michael on 4th October. *"Michael & Rosemary Davies and family would like to thank all their friends at Lindfield URC for their prayers and expressions of sympathy on the passing of Rosemary's mother, Edith Davison, who had been associated with our church for over 30 years."*

**Questions
about
Christ?**

visit www.lindfieldurc.org.uk

The fifty year journey from Kent to Sussex

Rev Richard Tucker, member of this church and now over ten years into his 'retirement', celebrated his 50th anniversary as an ordained minister last month.

Richard left school at the age of 15, and worked in a number of London hospitals during the war. Upon 'release', he was accepted into New College, London where he trained for the ministry.

Bexley Congregational Church, in Kent, was Rev Tucker's first pastorate, where it all began in October 1952. From there he moved to Seven Kings in Essex, then some quaint village church in Lindfield (!) and finally was called to Sevenoaks URC back in Kent. Richard retired in 1991, when he and Lyn decided to move back down to West Sussex and reclaim their membership at Lindfield URC!

Reflecting on his ministry Richard said: "When God calls you to do something unlikely and beyond your capacity – he gives you the power to go and do it".

Congratulations, Richard, and thank you on behalf of all those to whom you have ministered during your half-century of service to God.

New gambling laws not a safe bet

The Sunday Times reported on 6th October that the Government have shelved plans to bring forward legislation this year on the issue of gambling. The Government had put forward wide ranging proposals that would liberalise the gaming industry in the UK and allow casinos to be bigger and serve alcohol. There was much talk in the press of Las Vegas style resorts.

The Evangelical Alliance welcomed the Government re-think, having responded to the consultations put forward by the Government – asking that a lot more thinking is done about the social and moral consequences of de-regulating the industry.

Raiders of the lost Arks?

Television producer Marcia Engel, currently filming a new biblical drama series in South Wales, is concerned that two replica Arks of the Covenant have been stolen in recent months.

The original prop was stolen from a carpentry workshop in Penclawdd, while the replacement disappeared from a farm in the Vale of Glamorgan. The third "Ark" is now locked away for safety. Jacob's Ladder, a co-production between HTV and EO (Evangelische Omroep) in the Netherlands, is scheduled for screening in the spring of 2003.

Source: Christian Herald – the UK's only inter-church weekly. Subscribe on 01903 602100

Joshua's legacy

The death of an eight-year-old boy has led to the launch of a new Christian-based project to help children deal with loss. Joshua Deriaz suffered sudden onset of a malignant brain stem tumor early last year, dying just 21 days after diagnosis. His mother, Sarah, and father, Paul, struggled to come to terms with their son's dramatic decline – and how to explain it to his sister Sophie, then aged nine. The family also became aware of the need for educational resources to help schools when an unexpected death occurs within their community. They have launched the initiative through Christian educational charity "cre8ed".

Source: Christian Herald – the UK's only inter-church weekly.

Thoughts for Christmas

Tearfund is selling a pack for use in church services and home groups in the run up to Christmas. Entitled "A Place To Belong" it focuses on refugees who have had to flee from war-torn Sudan to Egypt.

It includes a 20-page activity guide, colour acetates, an advent calendar, a poster and donation cards. There are also children's activities and a play. Priced £4.95 direct from Tearfund, details at www.tearfund.org.

With the World Summit finishing in Johannesburg back in September, many were looking for solid answers to some of the major world issues. While these solutions may not always be clear, here are a couple of stories, published soon after the Summit.

Debt relief is working

A report by Jubilee Research and New Economics Foundation shows that debt relief works.

In an exclusive review of newly available data on government budgets in African countries, they show that the debt relief delivered to date has resulted in large increases in spending on education and health in Africa – and no increase in spending on defence.

It is noted that in 1998, education spending in the ten countries for which data was available, was only \$929m, less than the amount spent on debt service. Today, it is \$1306m – more than twice what is being paid to foreign creditors. Before debt relief, more than twice as much was being spent on debt service as on health. Since then, spending on health has risen by 70 per cent – and is now one third higher than spending on debt repayments.

The report, published in August, showed that contrary to the views of their sceptics, debt

relief is not being used to fuel military expenditures. In the countries reviewed, no increase in military spending was found as a result of debt relief. However, in indicating the current state of debt relief offered to African countries – it also shows just how little has actually been cancelled. Jubilee Research say that deeper debt cancellation is now desperately needed.

Africa presented its own strategy for renewal at the G8 Summit in Genoa last year, entitled 'New Partnership for Africa's Development' (NEPAD). 'We are essentially saying', President Mbeki of South Africa explained, 'that surely the time has come that as the African continent, we should see an end to the underdevelopment of the continent, and an end to the poverty and there must be an end to conflicts.' UK Prime Minister Tony Blair has described the proposal from African leaders as the 'best chance in a generation to do development differently'.

Tearfund: Water campaign has made an impact

In a blitz of media coverage and political debate the World Summit has been and gone – but what did it actually achieve?

The summit didn't achieve everything it needed to but it did make some progress. The biggest success was the setting of an international target to halve the number of people without access to adequate sanitation – a key demand of the Tearfund Water Matters campaign.

Water Matters had a real impact at the Summit – with key demands on the petition being met. All governments agreed to a target to halve the proportion of people without access to adequate sanitation by 2015. All governments confirmed that they would prioritise programmes of action to reach the sanitation and water targets. All governments confirmed that they would develop plans for integrated water resource management by 2005. The EU/Africa Water Initiative was launched, aiming to bring safe water to 100 million people by 2015, which includes support for the prioritisation of funding for water and sanitation.

A fantastic result – the campaign REALLY did make a difference. Tearfund wants to thank you for taking action and helping to make this happen!

The UK government made a positive response to the campaign and petition.



Thank you to Lindfield URC for your support. As a result of our Supper and monthly giving in June we were able to send £1500 to Tearfund for Water Matters and a further sum of £1000 was sent for the famine appeal in Southern Africa.

November diary

3rd

Sunday

9.30am Communion –
Richard Walters &
Mike Gardiner
11.0am Mike Gardiner
6.30pm Healing – David
Nibloe & Derek Heath

7th

Thursday

House Groups

10th

Sunday

Remembrance Sunday
9.30am Richard Walters
& Gerry Willis
11.0am Gerry Willis
12noon Copy Date for
December GoodNEWS
6.30pm Communion –
David Nibloe & Ron
Goodenough

7.30pm Ardingly College
Choral Society.
Mass in G – Schubert –
Remembrance Concert.
Tickets: 01444 892316

13th

Wednesday

12.30pm
Lunch Fellowship

14th

Thursday

8.00pm Church Meeting
(AGM)

15th

Friday

12.30pm
Lunch Fellowship

16th

Saturday

10-12noon Boys'
Brigade Coffee Morning
2.30-4.0pm – Compton
House Cake Fair

17th

Sunday

Persecuted Church Sunday
9.30am David Nibloe,
Missions Group & Geoff
Whittington from Open Doors
11.0am Missions Group
& Geoff Whittington
6.30pm Worship,
Information & Prayer
Evening for the
Persecuted Church –
Missions Group

Prisoners' Sunday

see Page 4

21st

Thursday

House Groups

23rd

Saturday

Church 'Spring' Cleaning

24th

Sunday

9.30am Richard Walters,
Peter & Kay McIntosh
11.0am Communion –
Peter & Kay McIntosh
6.30pm David Nibloe &
Steve Hagger

26th

Tuesday

7.45pm Ladies 'In Touch'

27th

Wednesday **2.30pm** The Fellowship
 7.45pm Elders' Meeting

28th

Thursday **8.00pm**
 Monthly Prayer Meeting

30th

Saturday **10am – 12noon**
 Lindfield Royal British
 Legion Women's Section
 Christmas Sale (50p entr.)
 in the King Edward Hall

*Good***NEWS** to listen to...

**If, for whatever reason,
you wish to listen to
this magazine, rather
than read it – YOU CAN!**

**Copies of it are
available to borrow on
CD and Tape at the rear
of the church, by the
Sunday Service tapes.**

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.



The story of Paul

In the book of Acts in the Bible we begin to read about a man called Saul who hated Christians.

He searched for them and threw many into prison. One day he went to Damascus as he had heard about a group of Christians there, but on the journey a strange thing happened. Suddenly a great flash of light, like lightening, darted down from the sky and stopped Saul in his tracks. He fell to the ground and covered his eyes. He heard someone call his name.

“Saul! Saul! Why are you trying to kill me?”

“Who are you?” asked Saul.

“I am Jesus, who you are persecuting. Go into the city. When you are there you will be told what to do”.

The men who were travelling with Saul also heard the voice, but there was no one there. They were amazed. Saul stood up and rubbed his eyes – but he couldn’t see! He was blind. He was led into Damascus where a man called Ananias met him. Ananias had been sent by God to make Saul see again. He put his hands on Saul’s eyes and said “Jesus has sent me to you so that you may see again. Now you will be a new man, filled with the Holy Spirit”. And straight away, Saul could see. He stayed in Damascus for a few days, not to capture Christians but instead

to tell people about the good news of Jesus. He was a completely new man now and he didn’t like his old name because of all that it stood for. So he became known as Paul, a brave and loyal disciple, loved by all the followers of Jesus.

Paul loved to visit Christians and talk to them about Jesus. He even travelled to far off places to tell the people about Jesus. But not everyone liked him for this and he was captured and put in prison. While he was there he still praised God and even wrote letters to some of the churches he had visited to encourage them in their faith.

You can read these letters in the Bible – many are books in the New Testament. **Can you find the names of the books that Paul wrote in this month’s wordsearch?**

For our **competition** this month, just answer the following question – **how many books of the Bible did Paul write?** The wordsearch may give you some clues! Jot your answer on a piece of paper, along with your name and a contact number. Put it in the GoodNEWS box by Sunday 10th November. The prize for this month is some special pre-Christmas goodies.

fun page CROSSWORD puzzle



Romans
Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians

Thessalonians
Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Colossians



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

The bestseller

Trudy Biersteker shares her experience of ‘The Message’ by Eugene Peterson – recently released as a paraphrase of the full Bible. Is this how the best-selling book of all time can really ‘feel’ like the other bestsellers we so often read?

If like me you sometimes struggle with reading the Bible or your quiet times get stale then you might find The Message helpful.

The New Testament Message has been in print for a while but the whole Bible has now been published. Eugene Peterson has spent the last ten years rewriting the Bible in contemporary language and it is really refreshing. The Message seems much more personal and is much easier to read. Not only is the language easier to understand but it's set out like a book rather than in two columns. Passages that have been really hard to understand are now easier to follow and other passages that we maybe know really well stand out again and are given new meaning.

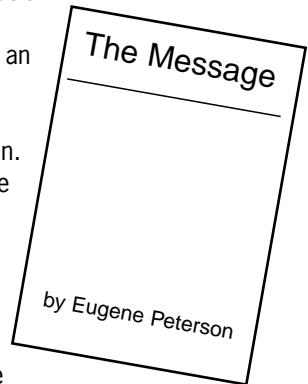
For example, The Lord's Prayer now begins, "Our Father in Heaven, Reveal who you are, Set the world right" and ends "You're ablaze in beauty, Yes, Yes, Yes." Psalm 139 begins "God investigate my life; get all

the facts firsthand. I'm an open book to you". Philippians chapter 2 really comes alive again.

I was only given The Message in August and am already up to the end of Samuel. The first five books of the Bible, which I have always found the most difficult, are written in easier to understand language. I've found all sorts of things that I hadn't seen before. I still don't understand all of it but it's given me back the enthusiasm for reading the Bible as it seems fresher.

The Message is not a new translation of the Bible, it's a paraphrase, so we shouldn't discard what we already read but should complement the version of the Bible that we're used to. So if you've been a Christian for years or you've only just become a Christian there will be something for you in The Message.

Trudy Biersteker



Christians should not be ‘Biblically ignorant’

Alarmed by the national decline in personal Bible reading, four leading Bible reading agencies – Scripture Union, Crusade for World Revival, Bible Reading Fellowship and International Bible Reading Association – have launched a new initiative to nurture personal daily reading and to encourage church leaders to teach on its importance.

Grow with the Bible is a campaign to help people rediscover the benefits of daily Bible reading, resulting in a growing relationship with God, transformation of character and a growing understanding of the Christian faith.

Denominational and church leaders are currently circulating a leaflet to congregations around the UK, aimed at the average churchgoer with little interest in the Bible. The leaflet uses samples of the different literary genres found in the Bible – including travel, crime and poetry writing – to hook the reader.

With sales of Daily Bread notes down by 33 per cent in the past five years, and other notes down by 10 per cent, a new approach is needed. Scripture Union’s John Grayston says it’s hard to pin down any one reason for the

decline in the traditional ‘quiet time’. A postmodern reluctance to accept absolute truth plays a part, he feels, and ‘personal Bible reading no longer receives the same emphasis in church. Often preaching doesn’t even include much Bible text and doesn’t excite people about the Bible.’

Christians who do not know their Bibles cannot make a healthy Church, says Grayston. ‘[Biblical ignorance] leads to problems for Christians, who are uncertain about their relationship with God. This makes it difficult to witness, because they don’t really know what they believe. And their values systems become virtually the same as non-Christians.’

Part of the solution, therefore, must come from leaders: if church leaders want mature Christians in their congregations, then they must be nurtured in the Bible.

A free introductory set of Grow with the Bible notes for a month is downloadable from the website at www.grow-with-the-bible.org.uk Printed versions are available for a nominal charge. Tel: (01442) 873109.

“Sales of Daily Bread notes down by 33 per cent in the past five years”

The persecuted Church

Sunday 17th November is being set aside as an **International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church**. On that day the **Missions Group** will be involved in the morning services and our speaker will be **Geoff Whittington** from **Open Doors**. Geoff has been with us at Lindfield for **Mission Suppers** and we are delighted that he will be able to join us on this special occasion. **The evening service will be given over to worship, information and prayer for the Persecuted Church.**



OpenDoors

During the month we will be devoting our Mission Giving to Open Doors which is an organization that is well known to many of us. It was founded in 1955 when Brother Andrew, a committed Christian, risked his freedom and began smuggling Bibles into Communist countries.

Since that time, Open Doors has delivered millions of Bibles to those desperate for the Word of God. The ministry has also been broadened to include leadership training, Scripture-based literacy programmes and even community development projects.

The three-fold mission...

- 1** To strengthen the Body of Christ living under restriction or persecution, by providing and delivering Bibles, materials, training and other help, and encouraging it to become involved in world evangelism.
- 2** To train and encourage the Body of Christ in threatened or unstable areas, to prepare believers to face persecution and suffering, and to equip them to maintain a witness to the Gospel of Christ.
- 3** To motivate, mobilise and educate the Church to identify with and become more involved in assisting the suffering Church, believing that 'when one member suffers, all members suffer with it' (1 Corinthians 12:26).

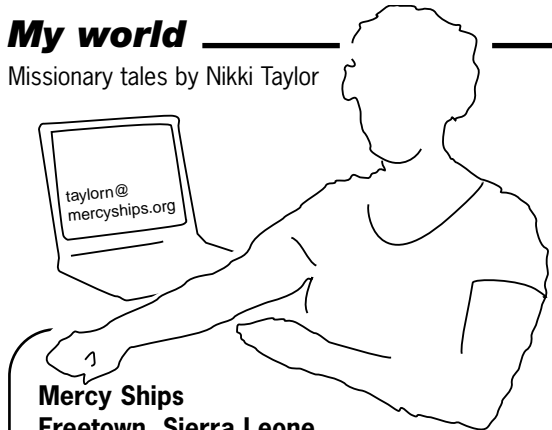


OpenDoors: From Bible printing to practical help and training pastors.

Bible printing and distribution still represents a significant part of Open Doors' work. But in recent years, the ministry has expanded considerably. Today, help is provided to those who have been widowed, left homeless or have lost their employment because of their Christian beliefs.

Another major focus for Open Doors is the training of pastors and Christian workers. Seminars and programmes are conducted for church leaders, as well as discipleship training for new believers. In some countries Bible-based literacy and English language courses are provided which include livelihood topics such as hygiene and farming. Currently there are numerous projects in high-risk areas.

For more information you can visit their website:
www.opendoorsuk.org



Mercy Ships Freetown, Sierra Leone

Life is complicated. God is good. One of our staff members has had a baby, so there has been some celebration and another's father has died. This is so difficult. How do you comfort for a situation such as this?

We have had 'les Grandes Fromages' visiting from the head office in Switzerland this past two weeks. Dorothy and Trevor are such a blessing. They have so much energy and so much vision for the work here. It is good to have someone come in with a view of the big picture to draw our focus from the everyday here and now to the wider scope.

I have been frantically finishing reports for UNICEF and Tearfund who we have applied to for funding. Although we do have a couple of donors, we also rely on donations from the general public and churches such as yourselves.

Learning to walk and live by faith and making realistic budgets – but yet to be careful stewards of the resources we have been given can be a fine line. Where can I find the money? I can't. How can I heal a lady with half of her leg rotted away because of an ulcer? I can't. I need to give the situation into God's hands and act on His instruction. But this is so hard to figure out sometimes, a fine line between acting in your own strength and using the talents God has given in His strength. So life is good and God is love.

Letter from Romania – part 2

Our friend from Catford and UK co-ordinator of the Christian charity, Cascaid, Dr Dickie Twort, has returned from Radauti in north east Romania. Last month we published the first half of the letter, this completes his report of the work of Dorca, supported by Cascaid, and its work amongst young people, the local gypsy community and families in need.

These have not been a happy couple of months for Orest – a founder and trustee of Dorca. Although he does have some capital assets, he faces a bit of a personal financial meltdown following the accident, due to the uninsured nature of Romanian life.

“When I saw him, he could only walk with extreme difficulty and pain. Among other things, he’d suffered a broken bone in his foot, which had been internally pinned. From what I’ve since heard, this has now been removed, but an infection has set in, and he’s in a worse state than ever. The accident in June had been caused by a young child running out in front of his car across a dual carriageway. Tragically the child was killed, and although there is no question of any blame attaching to Orest, he may still have to pay significant reparations out of his own pocket. The car was completely lost without any recompense, and he cannot now work (receiving only a minimal

sickness benefit). Add to this the separate issue of the family having to leave the vet’s flat in the next month, and one begins to get the idea of what it’s like to live in a country without a safety-net.

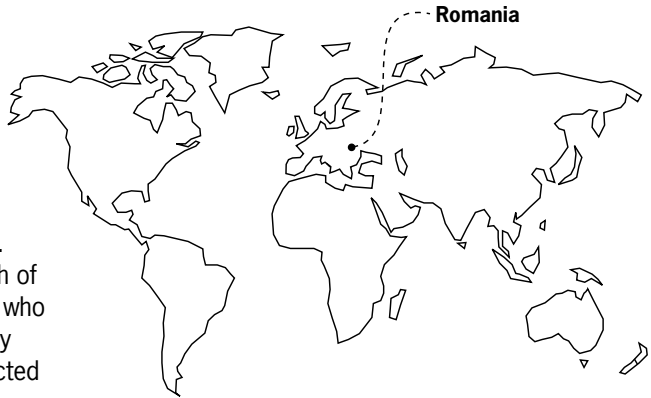
“As a result of all this, Orest has been toying with the idea of selling up his personal share in the buildings and land at Sucevita. This would of course have enormous knock-on effects for Dorca, and indeed for next year’s conference. In fact, even without this uncertainty, a question mark hangs over the venue. New Romanian health and safety legislation means that a huge amount of investment would have to be poured into Sucevita to make it legal for next year. Frankly, we don’t know what to do about this one!

“Papa at 70 (yes, seventy!) is indefatigable! We were able to give him £800 in the spring, so

Orest faces a personal financial meltdown... due to the uninsured nature of Romanian life.

that he could carry on with the reconstruction of some of the terrible housing in the Gypsy village, and this time we passed on a further £120 to support education in the community. This provided a term's worth of necessities for 40 children, who along with another 20 Gypsy children who are not connected with the church, and 60 Romanian children, make up the local primary school (ages 6–12). This is looking very promising indeed – Papa has succeeded in encouraging nearly all the Gypsy children to attend school, where some of them have performed exceedingly well, and also arranged competitions and prizes to add to the interest. Our donation will go towards school essentials – bags, books and pens.

“This is a vitally important work for the future of these people, remembering that many of the parent’s generation (ie those in their 30s) can neither read nor write, and formal education has never been a priority to their way of life. Dare we be optimistic? Papa explains his heart: ‘When I was a child we lived in even worse conditions than these Gypsies do now, and yet now we live in a much better state. I want to help them too’. Which only goes to show that,



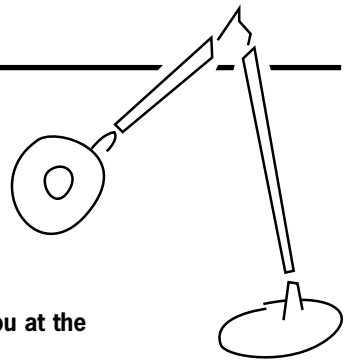
whatever your situation, you can look at it in one of two ways!

Finally – it’s not too late to sign up to our Pupil Sponsorship Scheme! Do ask for details if you’d like to support a young Romanian student through school in Radauti (the scheme builds in general support for the whole school too). This is a personal way in which you can make a real difference to talented people living in uncertain times. It will also hopefully provide you with a unique window into life in Romania!”

So, please pray for these dear people. If you would like more information about the Gypsy sponsorship scheme why not speak to John Barling (01444 482415) or Ron Goodenough (01825 740351) of our Missions Committee who will be pleased to advise.

Twenty Questions

GoodNEWS takes a probing glimpse into the minds of those who come to the church! Twenty Questions gives you a chance to guess the interviewee and learn a bit more about them too! This month's guest is revealed on the foot of Page 28.



- 1. Tell us one memorable date?**
Armistice Day
- 2. Why?**
War over – 1918
- 3. All time favourite film?**
Historical
- 4. What is your shoe size?**
5
- 5. Describe your experience of God in a single sentence...**
He walks beside me.
- 6. Jelly Babies or Jelly Beans?**
Jelly Beans
- 7. Where is the furthest place that you have ever worked?**
London
- 8. How long have you been coming to this church?**
Nearly 40 years
- 9. What year did you pass your Driving Test?**
Never – before tests!
- 10. What is your greatest ambition?**
To be helpful and no trouble to other people.
- 11. If you met Jesus in the street today, what one question would you ask Him?**
To help us all to follow Him to make the world a better place.
- 12. Who has had the greatest influence on your life?**
My children.
- 13. Where were you at the Silver Jubilee?**
In Lindfield
- 14. Plain, Milk or White?**
Milk
- 15. Favourite holiday destination?**
Venice
- 16. What would you do with the Millennium Dome?**
Use it as a sports stadium.
- 17. Approximate height?**
5' 2"
- 18. Most-read Bible verse?**
There are many – particularly John 3: v16-17
- 19. Who is your hero?**
Jesus
- 20. Broadsheet or Tabloid?**
Broadsheet

Shorts

“Just as old soldiers compare stories and scars, when we arrive at our heavenly home we’ll tell of the faithfulness of God who brought us through. I wouldn’t like to be pointed out as the only one who never experienced sorrow or feel like a stranger in the midst of the sacred fellowship. Therefore, be content to share in the battle, for soon we will wear the crown.” – Spurgeon

Christ's church together

In the last in our series remembering back to the church weekend away a year ago, we see again some of the thoughts and feelings that were shared in poetic form.

*We unite at Ashburnham 2001
We knew God would bless us before we'd begun
We shared in such fellowship, worship and fun
Is this how God wants us to be?*

*We unite at Ashburnham 2001
The colours were marvellous in bright autumn sun
But people by far are the best that God's done
Is this how God wants us to be?*

*We unite at Ashburnham 2001
Our God to embrace and the devil to shun
That Lindfield might share in the life of God's Son
This is how God wants us to be!*

Anon

Let us not forget
all that was felt
and said during
UNITE2001, for
the good of
Christ's Kingdom.
**What were YOU
challenged about?**

*We unite at Ashburnham 2001
To meet, share, listen, the kids to have fun.
The chatter at meal times quite deafened the ear
But converse at prayer time - the prayers hard to hear.
So from the heart comes this lament and this plea
When sharing your prayer, don't pray to your knee!
"Great is Thy faithfulness", the Lord showed us again
Blue skies and sunshine, such beauty, no rain
Blessed have we been in this time shared apart
And our thanks and deep gratitude pour from the heart.*

Anon



Moving on

A sort-of poem inspired by National Poetry Day in October.

Was there life after Brian died?
Of course, at first I doubted and cried.
Would I ever be happy again?
All I felt was hurt and pain.

To counsellors I turned for help,
The NHS and 'Cruise' as well.
Their guidance and wisdom was just amazing;
Perhaps my future wasn't fading!

The love and support of my family
And friends and neighbours was plain to see.
On them I called when I was low;
I still thank God they helped me so.

So, five years on it's not so bad,
There's lots to live for; I am glad
I've found a new start and interests, too,
Just as Brian would have wanted me to!

There will always be a hole in my heart
For of me Brian was a special part.
But I am grateful I have moved on
With my Lord to depend upon.

God does provide a way to go,
Even through pain that hurts you so.
My memories now are treasured and dear.
Brian would say, "Be happy, my dear!"

I hope and pray this may help and encourage others who have lost their life's partner. *Fo Tingley.*

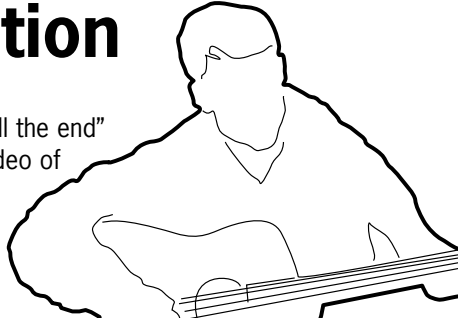
Martyn Joseph on charity album collobration

Christian singer/songwriter, Martyn Joseph has been working with Christian Aid on a project which seeks to benefit the Landless Workers' Movement of Brazil (MST) – where he visited earlier in the year.

"I travelled to Rio in the company of Christian Aid and BBC Radio Wales to observe the work of the MST of Brazil" said Martyn. "It was an amazing trip of deep emotion, rich experience and challenge. One of the moments I will never forget was by the side of the road in a place called Campos. There, at an MST encampment, I saw the reality of the struggle for a group of courageous people, intent on obtaining justice and a piece of land on which to plant crops, raise homes and build a community. I made a promise to them that I would do whatever I could to tell their story and this CD is part of that promise".

The 6 track CD includes tracks donated by the likes of Tom Robinson and Ricky Ross (formerly of Deacon Blue). Also on the CD you'll find a live performance of the albums title

track "Till the end" and a video of footage taken during Martyn's trip to



Brazil in March. All profits from the sale of the album will be going to support the work of MST – Joseph comments: "A lot of time and effort was donated free of charge to this project including a waiving of royalties and fees".

The CD, 'Till the end – for the MST' was launched at the Greenbelt Festival and is now available to purchase. More details from www.martynjoseph.com.

Martyn Joseph LIVE
at the Martlets Hall, Burgess Hill

Friday 13th December 2002

"A depth, resonance and emotional punch, which belies comparison. One of acoustic music's most original voices" Q Magazine

Martlets Box Office: 01444 242888

Download GoodNEWS from
anywhere in the world...

www.lindfieldurc.org.uk

To come this Christmas...

As in previous years, we will have a Christmas Carol Concert at Lindfield URC – taking place at 7.30pm on 19th December.

It will include many well-known carols plus the musical – Night of Miracles. Following the concert there will be the customary refreshments of the season; all financial proceeds from the evening will go to St Peter & St James' Hospice.

More info from Peter Swann.

Flower Rota

	Arranging	Distributing
Nov 3	Winifred Scopes	Dorothy Forster
10	Betty Billins	Betty Peter
17	Sue Waller	Jacqueline Wood
24	Heather Swann	Iris Bingham
Dec 1	Lucy Thom	Fiona Tingley
8	Lyn Tucker	Heather Swann
15	Janet Wade	Sue Tester
22	Christmas Dec.	-
29	Christmas Dec.	-

Many thanks for donations and help for harvest

Betty Billins & Fiona Tingley

**The Twenty Questions guest this month was
Elsie Camping**



Would you like to receive the LCCH Newsletter and Requests for Prayer? (see page 9)

Simply cut out this reply slip, and write your name and address below – pop it in the post to: House Manager, LCCH, Lindfield, West Sussex RH16 2JZ

Name: _____

Address: _____

