

GoodNEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

MAY 2004



Members' time

PLUS...

- Feature: Can I be a church 'member'?
- The latest from Lindfield Bowl's Club.
- Forthcoming local and church events.





God came incredibly close

I write this at Easter time and there are still many words from the media concerning not only the film 'The Passion of the Christ' but also the actual events that the film depicts. The movie begins with the words from Isaiah 53 verse 5:

"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed."

I would like to get beyond the debate to what these words could mean in a practical way for our lives today by using someone's personal story, which I hope you will find helpful and enlightening.

A few years ago I heard Joni Eareckson Tada speak. In part of her address she used the words, "God's wounds answer to our wounds". A curious phrase perhaps, until you hear Joni's story:

One day, during the summer of 1967, Joni dived off a raft into the sea and struck her head on a rock, breaking her neck. She was instantly paralysed and, were it not for the quick-thinking of a friend, might have drowned there and then. Joni was rushed to hospital and several weeks later learned that her condition

would be permanent.

Joni's spirits fell to great depths and turning to her friend Jackie, she said, "Help me die. Bring me some pills or a razor blade, even. I can't live inside a grotesque body like this." Of course, Jackie could not bring herself to do what Joni asked.

Sometime after this, a friend, Cindy, sat reading with her and blurted out: "Joni, Jesus knows how you feel – you aren't the only one – why, He was paralysed too". Joni asked, "What do you mean?" "It's true", said Cindy. "Remember He was nailed on a cross. His back was raw from beatings and He must have yearned for a way to move, to change positions, or to redistribute His weight. But He couldn't. He was paralysed by the nails."

The thought went deep into Joni's spirit. It had never occurred to her that God had felt the exact piercing sensations that racked her body. "At that moment", said Joni, "God came incredibly close." Joni contends that this is always the effect upon those who realise that the God they serve knows exactly how they feel. I pray that in sharing this story, as you reflect on your own life and circumstances He may come close, incredibly close, to you today.

Colin Bones, minister

GoodNEWS

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Editorial



Welcome to the May edition of GoodNEWS.

This month we take a closer inspection on what it means to be a member of the church, and why some of us take that step in our journey of faith. The feature, written by Colin, starts on page 4.

Elsewhere John Barling picks up his pen, following his trip to the cinema in search of Jesus. See page 17.

On page 20 we hear of news from Lindfield Bowling Club – an opportunity that I hope other local groups will take up – who are keen to see others take up the game in the village.

Mike Gardiner shares the last in his enlightening series on the book of John in this magazine (page 14). I must publically thank Mike for his dedication to contributing to GoodNEWS. They have always been well-considered and appreciated articles.

Don't forget all readers are welcome to contribute something for publication; if you have typed it using a PC, it would be really helpful if you emailed it me or put it on disk in the pigeon hole at the back of the church. Many thanks.

David Tingley, editor

Prayer Diary



SUN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for a fresh out-pouring of the Holy Spirit as we celebrate Pentecost. • Uphold Colin, and all those involved in any way, in leading worship.
MON	<p>Thank God for...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our BB company and all those working within it. • The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 9th – 15th May. • Our mission focus/supper (8th May) – OM Turning Point.
TUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24/7 Prayer Week in Haywards Heath 15th – 22nd May, pray for the preparations and for enthusiastic support for this opportunity. • Thank God for our Girls’ Brigade, the girls and the staff.
WED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for those who mourn, that they may find comfort. • Remember in prayer those whose surname begins with E and F (see Who’s Who).
THUR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask God to continue to bless ‘Pop In’, those who serve and those who attend. • Pray for our House Groups as they begin a new study, particularly upholding the leaders.
FRI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sussex East District United Reformed Churches in Hastings, Eastbourne, Alfriston, Seaford and Willingdon • Meeting of Provincial Council (URC) on 20th May.
SAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for the membership of Lindfield URC, that we are united in our love for God and each other, for a willingness to serve and to bless one another; that we might encourage others to take that step of sharing with us as members of God’s family here.

Not just paperwork – membership is biblical!

If you thought being a member of a church was all about politics and national Church statistics then think again. Here, Colin Bones summarises what membership means. If you are a Christian, then why not join your local fellowship – our members' meetings are a hoot too!

Every true Christian church remains faithful to the confession given by Peter in Matthew 16:16 that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

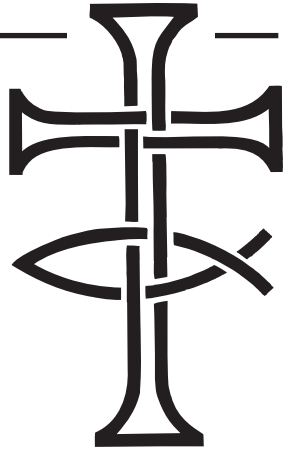
The United Reformed Church's promises of faith include this and gives a fuller confession to be used when we 'come into membership' of the church either through Confirmation or Believer's Baptism. Every denomination has its particular focus. We have a strong emphasis on being saved by grace through faith.

Declaring yourself to be a Christian is not only a matter between you and God, but also a matter between you and other people. From our birth we are surrounded by God's care and love and he is drawing us to himself as a mother reaches out her arms to her child. It pleases

God to call us to him. In Jesus Christ he has come to meet us.

When we recognise him and run to him and say we believe Jesus is Lord of all and that he is our Lord, it is by God's grace. Grace is the word we use to describe the loving kindness and persistent care that God has for us, the grace we see in Jesus Christ who gave himself for us, even to the cost of his own life. By that grace we come to the moment in our lives when we say we wish to be a member of the CHURCH: the great body of people who own Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who share communion with him and with each other and who promise to worship, witness, give and serve to the very best of their ability.

The Promises are the words we say at a service of reception into membership (or 'confirmation' as it is often



called). A simpler promise is used when we transfer from one congregation to another. When you have made your promises the minister receives you into the church in the name of Jesus Christ. There will be signs such as a hand laid on your head – a sign of the filling of the Holy Spirit and your hand taken in friendship to show that you are accepted, by Jesus and the church.

The church membership service is an important occasion in your life. You say publicly that you want to be a member of the Church – God’s family – for ever and the Church says, publicly, that you have become a member of the family because you have been born again by God’s Holy Spirit.

In the early church ‘every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved’ (Acts 2:47). So the Lord added converts to the church thus causing the group to grow. Paul describes the church as the Body of Christ and individual members are called part of his body (1 Corinthians 12:27). It is clear that belonging to Christ involved

belonging to his church. One followed from the other.

If you have never taken the initial step of Church Membership or ‘Confirmation’ I have put this article together to encourage you to consider membership of Christ’s church here at Lindfield URC. Two of our members have also shared what membership means to them. Please speak to myself or an elder if you feel that you are ready to take this step. Teaching groups will be arranged to ensure that you understand the promises and can have your questions answered.

If you have already been a member of the Christian Church but have now settled at Lindfield United Reformed Church as your spiritual home then please speak to myself or an elder about the transfer of your membership.

We have a new vision statement (see inside front cover) – let’s go forward together united in vision and purpose.

Colin Bones, minister

My feelings as a Church member

- To me, it is the small things in life which are important. From the greetings at the church door, being met with a smile means an awful lot
- to many people, especially those who might be coming to our church for the first time, and those who live on their own.

I feel that the House Groups are one way of getting to know our fellow members/friends, when we also get to know more about God's word and His love for us – also a chance to get to know each other in smaller groups.

Being involved with 'The Fellowship' has given me the privilege of getting to know more people.

- To me, the poignant service we shared on Good Friday morning summed my feelings up: We were there, as a church family, to give thanks and to praise our Lord and Master.

Jessie Green

Why am I a member of Lindfield United Reformed Church?

- Well there's a question and to be honest the initial answer was
- because we had been attending the church for some time. We were then asked if we would like to become members and we said yes. End of answer.

But not really, being a member is proving to be an intriguing two-way interaction.

In becoming a member I made a commitment to the Church, to attend Sunday services, and be willing to give of time, skills and money etc. However, I have received beyond what I have given in opportunities to grow in my faith, develop friendships and to be supported through hard times as well as to enjoy the good times.

Val Cookney



The Promises made by those coming into the Body of Christ through the United Reformed Church:

Do you confess your faith in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, taking the Father to be your Father, the Son to be your Saviour and Lord, the Spirit to be your Helper and Guide?

Do you promise, in dependence on God's grace, to be faithful in private and public worship, to live in the fellowship of the Church and to share in its work; and to give and serve as God enables you, for the advancement of his kingdom throughout the world?

Do you promise, by that same grace, to follow Christ and to seek to do and to bear his will all the days of your life?

And do you trust in his mercy alone to bring you into the fullness of the life of the world to come?

What is the 'church meeting'?

- Monthly 'business' meeting for church members.
 - All church members are encouraged to attend (though a 'register' isn't taken!)
 - Held at Lindfield URC.
 - A short devotion or thought is normally shared at the beginning.
 - Discuss matters arising, for example; proposed maintenance, new minister, what groups in the church are up to, church accounts, what colours the doors will be painted, church vision and national URC denomination etc.
 - Opportunity to share/hear any 'family news'.
 - Chances to hear about and get involved in events early on.
 - Time to air your views about anything in church life.
 - A meeting, not a service.
-
- It is a time when members from all three services get together, laugh, sort stuff out and hear about what God is doing.

New Address

Leesa and Andy Lemay and their boys have moved to 18 Meadow Lane, Lindfield. The telephone number remains the same:- 01444 483370. Please update your Who's Who.

Bereavement

We extend our love and sympathy to the family and friends of **Peggy Burrel** who died on 20th March.

To **Janet and Ron Goodenough**, Trudy, Rob and all the family on the recent death of Janet's mother on 26th March.

and to **Mies Brock** and the family and friends of Lawrence who died on 3rd April.

Thank you

Thank you so much for your donation of £2683.38. It was a real pleasure to come along and meet you all and spend time talking about our work. We are so grateful for all the effort everyone has put into raising such a terrific amount.

Alison Godfrey

WORTHING CHURCHES
HOMELESS PROJECTS

THANK YOU FROM BLUEBIRD COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

On behalf of the Trustees of Bluebird Community Transport I would like to thank your church for your kind donation of £250.00 which is gratefully appreciated.

With the absence of funding from the local and county councils we are very dependent on donations and our own fund raising efforts for survival. Consequently during this coming year a greater emphasis will be placed on helping groups of people such as your church and less on Dial-a-Ride for individuals. This decision was not taken lightly and if funds are forthcoming from the councils at a later date then the latter service will be upgraded.

Once again, many thanks.

Thank you

How lovely to get your letter the other day and a wonderful cheque for £555.31 raised at your Christmas Carol Concert.
from ST PETER AND ST JAMES' HOSPICE

Thank you

Thank you for your very generous gift of £1800.00 towards our work. The funds will be designated towards the House Building programme and the support of a House Church in China.

This year's Shoe Box appeal has also been a wonderful success and so many children have received not only a Shoe Box full of gifts, but also the knowledge that someone, somewhere cares for them.

Thank you so much for your loving support of SAMARITAN'S PURSE.

(These are only extracts from letters we have received. See Bill Green if you wish to receive the full version.)

10th Anniversary walk

To follow up the article in April's magazine, there is a poster in the hallway (LURC) with leaflets giving more details about the Pilgrimage Walk.

Please help yourself and add your name to the list if you intend to take part.

Barbara Shepherd

Power-walkers

Sandra Gedrych and Liz McGoldrick will be walking to raise money for Breast Cancer Research on Saturday 15th May.

Sandra, a regular worshipper at Lindfield URC, says any sponsorship for the charity marathon will be most welcome. Speak to her at church, or call her on 01444 471786.

Not quite "goodbye Lindfield"

We wish Jean and Mike Gardiner well as they take up a part-time ministry helping the Baptist Church at Wandsworth during a pastoral vacancy. This means we won't be seeing them on Sundays, but they will retain their house in Finches Gardens, where they will escape for their days off – so you may meet them in the bakers' or the Post Office!

Balcombe United Reformed Church

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. Visitors are always welcome.

Speakers for this month are as follows:-

2nd May

Michael Davies – Communion Service

16th May

Colin Bones

The Fellowship meets next on Wednesday 26th May at 12.30pm for the Annual Charity Lunch. All proceeds will go to Bluebird Community Transport. Please note the change in time. All are welcome.

Concert postponed

I regret that the proposed concert in aid of St Peter and St James' Hospice (see April GoodNEWS) has had to be postponed.

This is due to reasons out of the control of either us or the Ashdown Singers, but it is hoped to hold this in the late summer/autumn.

Hilary Shepherd



Community Network launch

A new local initiative is being set up to help connect local voluntary and community groups in rural Mid Sussex.

The Community Network will provide a range of groups (be it parent/toddler, youth club, Scouts, a lunch club or sports club) with opportunities to publicise their activities and share relevant information, such as good practice guidelines, new government regulations or problems being experienced.

The Community Network is being organised by Mid Sussex (South) Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) in Burgess Hill – and they are particularly keen to involve childrens', families and youth groups in the scheme.

The CVS will produce a regular newsletter and hold meetings to provide those in rural areas with a discussion forum and a voice.

The first two such meetings, explaining the proposed aims of the group, will be held on 28th April (The Martlets Hall, BH) 12noon–2.30pm and 5th May (CVS office, 38 Church Road, BH) 7.0–9.30pm.

If you would like to go to one of the meetings contact Jane Sachon on 01444 258102 or cvsms@copperstream.co.uk

Crucial contribution of churches in providing volunteers

The crucial contribution of churches in staffing voluntary projects was stressed by Peter Sedgwick, Churches Criminal Justice Forum chair, when he spoke at the National Probation Service Faith Conference in February.

He said society has much more money than twenty years ago, but spends much less time volunteering. The exceptions are those who belong to faith groups, whose contribution of time is six times the national average.

He highlighted some of the many schemes contributing to reducing offending which are church-based or staffed by volunteers from faith communities.

CCJF Newsletter – www.ccjf.org.uk

Lindfield's call for listed kiosk

The Parish Council have apparently been informed of a 'stay of execution' for the red phone box by The Bent Arms in the High Street.

This is welcome news. In the meantime, The Society for the Preservation of Lindfield has written to Mid Sussex District Council asking for the kiosk to be listed.

Lindfield Newsletter, Spring 2004, The Society for the Preservation of Lindfield

Check for paedophiles may silence church bells

They have been ringing bells at St James the Great church in the village of Gawsworth, Cheshire, for more than 600 years. Every Sunday dedicated bellringers climb the winding stone steps to the chilly tower and, for half an hour before the beginning of morning service, ring out their welcome.

“We’re a little community. We’re quite a distinct section of the church,” says Stephen Bayley, who has been ringing bells at the picture postcard church, built on the site of a Norman chapel, for 32 years.

Mr Bayley was taught the skill by his father, Eric, when he was 10, and both are still ringing in Gawsworth.

Bell ringing is as much a social activity as a religious one, and ringers are welcome at any tower in the country. But that may be about to change. To the dismay of campanologists, who fear churches will fall silent, the Church of England is insisting that bell ringers must be checked by the Criminal Records Bureau.

The revised edition of the child protection policy Protecting All God’s Children, published last month by the House of Bishops of the General Synod, says that all adult volunteers who work in mixed age groups, including bell ringers, choristers and church servers, must “apply” for their jobs.

“We understand there’s a need to protect children, but this is overkill,” Mr Bayley says.

He believes it will reduce the number of people taking up ringing, which is already declining in his area, because they are put off by paperwork.

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers this week called the move “draconian”.

May church diary

2nd
Sunday

- 9.30am Communion –
David Nibloe &
Colin Bones
- 11.0am Healing Service
– Colin Bones
- 6.30pm David Goodchild
& Colin Bones

6th

Thursday House Groups week

8th

Saturday 7.30pm Mission Supper

9th

Sunday

- 9.30am Adrian Cookney
& Colin Bones
- 11.0am Colin Bones
- 6.30am Communion
David Goodchild
& Youth Group

12th

Wednesday 12.30pm Lunch Fellowship
5.0pm Copy Date for
June
GoodNEWS

13th

Thursday 8.0pm Church Meeting

14th

Friday 12.30pm Lunch Fellowship

**OTHER LOCAL EVENTS
LISTED ON BACK COVER**

16th
Sunday

FAIRTRADE STALL TODAY

- 9.30am Ron Goodenough
& Fiona Tingley
- 11.0am Fiona Tingley
- 6.30pm Adrian Cookney
& Colin Bones

20th

Thursday House Groups week

23rd
Sunday

- 9.30am David Nibloe &
Tim Griffiths
- 11.0am Communion
Tim Griffiths
- Bring & Share Lunch**
- 6.30pm David Goodchild
& David Nibloe

24th

Monday 7.45pm An Evening with
Fiona Castle

26th

Wednesday 12.30pm The Fellowship -
Charity Lunch
7.45pm Elders' Meeting

27th

Thursday 8.0pm Monthly Prayer
Meeting

30th
Sunday

- Pentecost Sunday
- 9.30am Adrian Cookney
& Dick French
- 11.0am Dick French
- 6.30pm David Goodchild
& Colin Bones

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.



One day seminar Helping you build a family of faith

Saturday 22nd May 2004
Redhill Baptist Church
(9am–4.30pm)

An opportunity for you to be equipped in very practical ways to get your children excited about their faith.



More info at:
www.care-for-the-family.org.uk
or call 029 2081 0800

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PAPER
pick it up in the village

ELECTRONIC
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AUDIO
borrow a tape or CD from LURC

“Do you love me?”

¹⁵When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?”
“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

¹⁶Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me?”
He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

¹⁷The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”
Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

¹⁸ Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” ¹⁹Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

²⁰Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is going to betray you?”) ²¹When Peter saw him, he asked, “Lord, what about him?”

²²Jesus answered, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.” ²³Because of this, the rumor spread among the brothers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?”

²⁴This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.

²⁵Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

We are in the time between Jesus' resurrection and his return to heaven, and Jesus has met with seven of his disciples by the sea of Galilee, as he had promised (Mark 14v28 and 16v7).

After their breakfast together beside the lake, Jesus takes Simon Peter aside (v15–22). Simon, whom Jesus renamed Peter (“a rock”), appears in all four gospels as a confident and outspoken follower of Jesus; in particular, he asserted that he would gladly lay down his life for his master (13v37), and even if all the others deserted Jesus, he never would (Matt 26v33). Yet each of those gospels records show after Jesus' arrest Peter cracked under pressure and, beside the fire in the high priest's courtyard, denied three times that he even knew Jesus. Now with a different group around a different fire (v9), Peter must have been smarting with the pain of the memory – surely he'd forfeited all right to be considered a disciple of Jesus, let alone a leader.

Jesus doesn't accuse Peter, but takes him back to his triple denial by a thrice-repeated question about Peter's love, which goes right to the heart of Christian discipleship, and to the message of John's Gospel. Jesus' first question (v15: “do

you really love me more than these others?) recalls Peter's brash assertion, and is perhaps a gentle reminder not to under-value his fellow-disciples. The way of restoration is painful (v17) but effective, and Peter was later to write that our faith has to be refined like gold to prove its genuineness (1 Peter 1v7). Peter is reminded of the original call “Follow me” (v19,22) and receives the commission to live out the ministry of the Good Shepherd himself, gently nurturing his fellow Christians.

Verse 18–19 have long been seen as a prophecy of Peter's martyrdom, and tradition has it that he was crucified in Rome under Nero some 35 years later. By contrast the author, the Apostle John, who invariably refers to himself as “the disciple whom Jesus loved” (v20) lived (according to tradition) to extreme old age, and verses 23–24 could well have been inserted to comfort the Christians after the death of the “Apostle of Love”.

As we conclude our studies in John's Gospel, let us hear again Jesus' question and apply it to our own hearts: “Do you truly love me?” Whatever our past failures, we too can know the restoring touch of the Good Shepherd on our lives once more.

Mike Gardiner

Turning Point



This month we are supporting Operation Mobilisation and in particular the work of Turning Point in West London. This is OM's outreach, church planting and training ministry among London's Arabic, Turkish, Persian and Somali communities.

During the year, three major outreach programmes take place when between 200 and 300 come from various parts of the world to receive training and practical experience in reaching out with the Gospel.

Throughout the year permanent long term staff are involved in evangelism through book tables, literature/video distribution, door-to-door surveys, bi-lingual international fellowships, women's and children's ministries, and coffee house ministries as well as visits to 'Speaker's Corner' in Hyde Park.

More information is on the mission display board/table.

Please use the 'Monthly Mission Envelopes' and place your gifts in the offertory at any Sunday service and complete a Gift Aid Slip if appropriate.

In addition to this we are holding a Mission Supper on **Saturday 8th May** (see inset).

MISSION SUPPER

Saturday 8th May

7.30pm for 7.45pm

**Speaker: Simon Lunt
from Operation Mobilisation – Turning Point**

Simon, who will be known to many of us, having been brought up in Lindfield, has been working with OM for a number of years in West London amongst ethnic groups. He will bring with him a small team to share about their work. The evening will be informative and topical.

The format will be slightly different from our normal Mission Suppers. Our meal will be served mid-way through the evening and hopefully will have an 'ethnic flavour'!

Free tickets are available from the **Missions Group**; Bill & Iris Green, Trudy Biersteker, John Barling and Ron Goodenough

NB. During the month of May we will be devoting our mission giving to O M Turning Point and there will be opportunity during this evening to give towards the work

Beyond the hype...a second look at The Passion

Last month the newspaper critics reported it, TV even gave it airtime and multiplex cinemas up and down the land were showing it. We even went to Crawley to see THAT film, the project that Mel Gibson had poured his millions and several years of his life into, "The Passion of the Christ". Violent? Of course. Moving? Definitely. Anti Semitic? Not really.

For an 8pm showing on a Monday, Screen 3 was eerily quiet, despite many seats filled. There wasn't the usual chatter or people running to and fro to the shop. Even the pre film ads seemed incongruous before a movie about the last 12 hours of Jesus Christ's life designed to inform and invoke a response rather than merely entertain.

Hitting the streets just before Easter the timing was carefully chosen, but was Screen 3 patronised by the converted wanting, like me, to pocket a conversation starter, or would the curious also be flocking to see it instead of doing the usual midweek things? Actually I did speak to a work colleague the following day and recommended she went and saw the film at her local UGC. I hope she does.

Like all good Hollywood the

Passion just begs for a follow on. Passion II doesn't have the right ring to it, but for me the best part, and the clue to the follow-on, was the final minute when the shroud that wrapped the body in the tomb collapsed like a deflating air balloon and Jesus, played by Jim Caviezel, very much alive again but with his hands clearly bearing the nail marks from the crucifixion, stood up and exited stage right.

Out of sight today in a physical sense, yet still very much alive and working through the Holy Spirit in the hearts of people today, Christ died for our sins but rose again and lives to restore to a right relationship with God all who come to him in faith, willing to make a fresh start. I guess you could read the script for the follow-on movie in the bible's Acts of the Apostles, but better still, see the visual aid in a Christian near you. Not in a perfect example of course, but in fallible human beings like us, where God is working hard if we let him, reworking us from the inside out to be more like the Passion's lead character.

So, would I recommend the movie? Definitely.

John Barling

SPRING HARVEST 2005!



We have just returned from Spring Harvest 2004. Hopefully you will have heard some feedback of what we learnt by now. It was a fantastic week and very challenging.

The theme for 2005 is “Singing the Lord’s song in a strange land”. Taking inspiration from the stories of Daniel and his companions–in–exile Spring Harvest 2005 will ask what it means to be the people of God and to grow in faith when our circumstances have so dramatically changed. We find ourselves in the minority now and live out our lives and witness in the context of competing, and sometimes hostile, world views. Surrounded by reports of an apparently declining church, can Christ’s followers in this generation find the strength to believe once again in the promises and plans of a sovereign God? Can we learn to live with a faith that is more the quiet whisper than the loud shout? Will changing times drive us to panic, or to prayer? And what can we learn from those in other times and places who have faced such pressures before? Squaring up to our culture and context with both realism and faith we will look together for the infilling and inspiration of God and learn how we can indeed – with conviction and joy – sing the Lord’s song in our time.

The dates will be either 31st March – 5th April or 5th – 10th April whichever we can get. Both these weeks are after Easter. Prices are approximately £127 per person.

I know that it seems very early to be thinking about Easter next year but I will have to make the booking on 10th June this year. Please put your name on the list which is by the church kitchen. It would be great if as many of us as possible can go in 2005.

I’ve got plenty of booking forms so please consider coming next year. If you would like further information then please speak to me or ring me on 01444 440835.

Trudy Biersteker

24/7 Prayer Initiative

HAYWARDS HEATH 24/7 PRAYER WEEK 15th - 22nd MAY 2004

The Church providing the prayer centre for the above week will be St Pauls, which as most will know, is located opposite the car park on Hazlegrove Road.

Access to the prayer room will be on the right hand side of the church as you face it, but will require negotiating a short flight of steps. Should access for a wheelchair be required, this can be arranged with suitable prior notice.

Suitable material and equipment will be provided for reading, writing, and playing tapes etc., remembering that our main focus is on prayers for God's Kingdom to come in Sussex, our particular home area and fellowships, together with anything the Holy Spirit may lay on our hearts.

Toilet facilities and a kitchen, together with beverages are readily adjacent to meet personal needs.

An additional list for the 24 hour period from 12 Noon on Tuesday 18th May until 12 Noon on Wednesday 19th May, will be available in hourly slots for our church members to indicate that they will take the responsibility for prayers within that period. It is important that we cover the whole 24 hours with prayer and we earnestly enlist your prayers for this to happen. In addition to this you may be near at another time during the week of prayer and feel an urge to go in and pray-----

PLEASE DO !

This, as far as I know, is a first for our county and we seek to :-

- 1) Praise God for the beautiful area in which we live.
- 2) Call upon His Power in extending His Kingdom.
- 3) Pray for local aspects which cause concern.

Please raise any points you wish to make on this event with our minister or any member of the Prayer Focus Group....(Janet Drayton, Tina Elphick, Dennis Rowell, Fo'Tingley, Mark Turner, Sue Waller.)

Meet new faces on the green

In what we hope to be the first of many, GoodNEWS takes a look at some of the many groups and clubs in Lindfield. Alan Thompson starts us off this month, telling us what is happening at Lindfield Bowling Club.

Financial adverts often contain the phrase “past performance is not a guarantee of future success”. This comment could also have been written for our village bowling club, which this summer starts its 101st season.

Over the years it has held a proud position as one of the most successful bowling clubs in Sussex. Members have won not only county competitions but also national events. So, with its enviable record and beautiful location, it is not surprising that for many years there was a waiting list of people waiting to become members.

But, what of the future? The club is now looking to open itself up to new members to ensure it prospers and survives for the next 100 years!

Look out for the club raising its profile as we seek to compete with other attractions.

We intend to use the media to greater effect so that local people are aware of why we believe this is a great club to belong to and may be attracted to join us.

Last season, apart from friendly and competitive games, we have enjoyed matches

against the Chelsea Pensioners and the Royal Household.

The social side has been active with quiz nights and candlelight bowls.

We believe, however, that just letting people know you are there is not

sufficient, in itself, to overcome our natural reticence when thinking about doing something different and meeting new people.

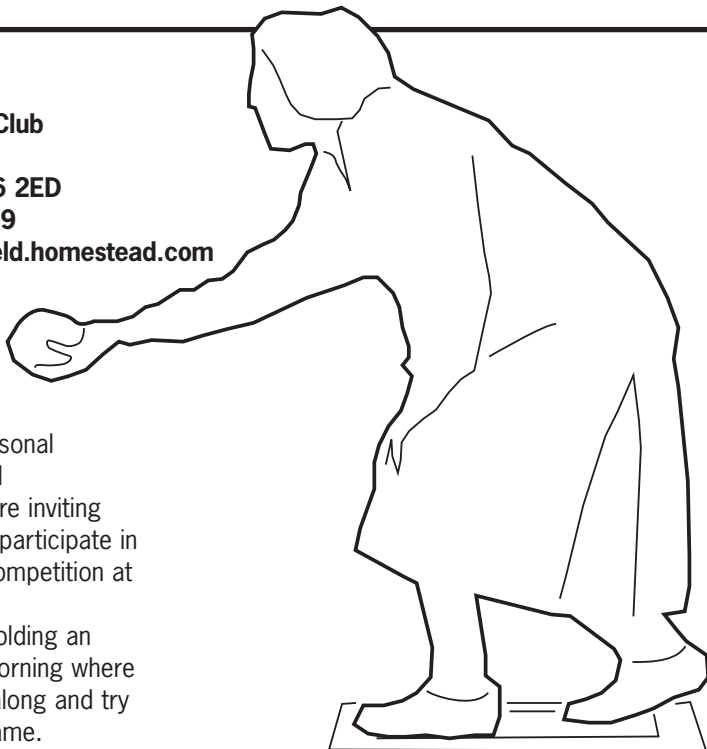
We want to make it easy to know us so this year we are embarking on three new initiatives:

Firstly, through the auspices of the Adult Education organisation we are organising bowls classes on our green.

LINDFIELD BOWLING CLUB



Lindfield Bowling Club
Lindfield Common
West Sussex RH16 2ED
Tel: 01444 484579
www.bowlsatlindfield.homestead.com



Secondly, by personal approaches to local organisations, we are inviting their employees to participate in a novice bowlers competition at Lindfield.

Thirdly, we are holding an open free coffee morning where anyone can come along and try their hand at the game.

We are looking forward to welcoming our guests from these initiatives and hope they will enjoy the events sufficiently to want to experience more of this wonderful game with us.

What about you?

Why not give bowls (a game for all ages) a try this summer, and make new friends?

Just ask Sidney Burden (01444 452127) to introduce you. We would love to welcome you to our village club and would be happy to give you free coaching.

Alan Thompson,
LBC strategic review

Tell everyone about it.

If you run a club or group in the local community that you would like to talk more about, submit an article/information to editor – it would be great to see more of what is going on in/around the village.

Contact details on page 2.

faithworks

Different Tour 2004

'Distinctive faith in a diverse world'

Speaker: Fiona Castle

Monday 24th May, 7.45pm

Lindfield United Reformed Church

More information:

01825 740351 or 01444 487607

**Entrance is free but there will be an
offering to cover the cost of the evening**

We are thrilled and privileged to be able to host this evening which is part of the **2004 Faithworks** programme. Fiona will be speaking in churches across the country on the issue of remaining authentically Christian while engaging in the diverse world around us.

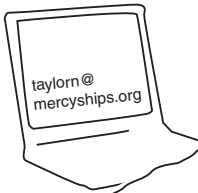
As part of the **Different Tour**, Fiona will speak about God's call on our lives to be holy, which literally means different. For Jesus, holiness was about inclusion, demonstrating God's compassion and passion for his people, whoever they were.

Different with Fiona, will also explore why and how we should get involved in our communities as well as building meaningful relationships with those we live among and work with.

Many will know that Fiona worked in the theatre and was married to Roy for over 30 years before he died of cancer in 1994. She now spends much of her time on speaking tours such as this one and writing.

My world

Missionary tales by Nikki Taylor



Mercy Ships Switzerland

So I am becoming Swiss... well OK I am going to be making my home in Switzerland. It's quite a different sensation to living in a place temporarily. Now when I look around this isn't just where I live but actually somewhere that will be home. Sometimes it scares me a bit and other times it is a nice surprise.

Plans for the wedding are going well. A marathon effort to purchase bridesmaids dresses and a wedding dress in 2 1/2 hours while home in the UK at Easter and trying to sort out all the legalities for marrying a foreign bloke! Switzerland is a very expensive place to live.

Nico met my entire family and is well approved of and he likes Fish and Chips, so this I think is another confirmation! We are reading lots of books to help us understand each other better and build a solid relationship.

Work is busy as ever with lots of changes taking place. Please pray for more workers to the harvest as we are needing a new director for the programme in Sierra Leone soon. So if you know anyone interested do give me a call or email!



Flower Rota

		Arranging	Distributing
May	2	Fiona Tingley	Sue Tester
	9	(Boys' Brigade)	Dorothy Forster
	16	Winifred Scopes	Betty Peter
	23	Lyn Tucker	Jacqueline Wood
	30	Jean Baxter	Iris Bingham
June	6	John Gage	Fiona Tingley
	13	Mies Broch	Heather Swann
	20	Hilda Danagen	Sue Tester
	27	Anne Blake	Dorothy Forster

Many thanks for donations for Easter flowers. Please let me know if you have any greenery that can be used for church flowers during the year.

Betty Billins

Church activities

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

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

Healing services as announced

PRAYER MEETINGS:

- Mon 9.15am 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)

House Groups normally meet 1st and 3rd Thursday

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

Phonebook



Church (payphone):

01444 484620

Minister's office number:

01444 487607

Boys' Brigade:

Geoffrey Cocksedge
01444 474007

Cradle Roll:

Sue Tester 01444 482810

Flowers:

Betty Billins 01444 484494

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-ordinator:

Rob Biersteker 01444 440835

Junior Church Co-ordinator:

Clare Nibloe 01444 484683