

*Good*NEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

JANUARY 2007



Is poverty being
put in the past?

We catch up with the campaign

MAKE POVERTY HISTORY

PLUS...

- 'Why men hate going to church': book review
- Catch up with an old friend, Norman Smith
- Boys' Brigade report

FREE
PLEASE HELP YOURSELF

A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE NOW GOING
BACK TO CHURCH ONCE AGAIN



THIS IS USUALLY BECAUSE THEY
HAVE FORGOTTEN SOMETHING LIKE
THEIR KEYS OR JACKET OR GLASSES

Dear Friends...



Welcome to 2007

A New Year – a time for New Year Resolutions and new beginnings
– so what will 2007 bring?

As a church, it is a new term for our various organisations, with the challenges that will bring. Our exciting children's work with Powersource, Boys' Brigade and Zest will soon be underway again. There are other activities catering for toddlers with Stepping Stones, to the Fellowship for a more mature group. There is also opportunity for others to meet over a range of activities – you can find these in the back of the magazine. Informal fellowship is provided with Dinner for Six, Pop In, In Touch and fortnightly house groups.

We have just remembered God's new beginning with the birth of His Son and we take that with us into the New Year -the God who makes all things new.

The search now begins for a new minister and I would encourage everybody to be in prayer regularly that God will lead us to the right person to move us on in His purposes.

I was asked recently to bring a reminder of our vision statement, which gives us clear direction as we seek to serve the Lord in the New Year. A house group was challenged to recite it – could you? It identifies what we are as a church...

Vision Statement

Lindfield United Reformed Church, worshipping God, sharing the good news of Jesus, and seeing lives changed by His love.

We are committed to

- Encountering God through daily praise, prayer and bible reading
- Encouraging one another to discover God's plan for our lives
- Demonstrating God's love by meeting physical and spiritual needs, local and worldwide.

Have we made it our vision as we enter this new year?

David Jones, secretary

GoodNEWS

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Editorial



**Come to you this month
with very exciting news!
GoodNEWS is changing.**

Many of you will know my personal situation – having a young family and still in the early days of starting my own business – I have decided to step aside, and hand over the skipper's responsibility for the GoodNEWS 'ship' to someone who can give it more attention.

I am really happy to announce that Val Cookney will be taking my place on the editorial team with effect from the next magazine. I wish Val (and all the team) all the best as they continue to present this part of God's work here in Lindfield with passion and enthusiasm. I will look forward to reading it, and maybe even contributing to it from time to time – if they let me!

Many thanks for all your support, dear reader, over the past four or so years.

David Tingley, editor

Prayer Diary



SUN

Pray for our Sunday worship, that God's Holy Spirit may anoint and equip all those who lead and preach. Remember those, too, who minister to us through music.

MON

Please continue to uphold our Elders, that God will help, guide and sustain them, and bless their Quiet Day on Sunday 28th.

TUE

Thank God for the Managers who look after the premises, often working quietly behind the scenes.

WED

Pray for Zest, Zest Plus, Boys Brigade, Power Source, Stepping-Stones and Creche. Ask that the staffing needs will be met, encouraging support given & the children well taught.

THUR

Remember the House Groups – pray for the leaders – ask God to teach & inspire us as we study His word together.

FRI

Uphold the various Groups within our Church: Pastoral, Finance, Missions, Prayer Focus, The Fellowship, In Touch, Pop In, the Art Group and the Lunch Fellowships.

SAT

Please pray for the Mission Focus this month – 'Stop the Traffik'.

Prayer FOCUS

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

As we begin this New Year, let us hold in prayer all those who are entrusted to spread the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Pray for local Ministers, Lay Preachers, Evangelists, those handing out tracts in our own village, that God will use their faithful endeavours to further His kingdom. Remember chaplains in the health service (particularly at this stressful time), in education, industry and in prisons, that they may bring spiritual comfort and guidance to people in need. (Also pray that financial pressures may curtail none of these ministries.) Thank God for folk in the arts and entertainment world who's passion it is to present the gospel through music, words and pictures. Pray for Christians in positions of influence in varying areas of public life, that they will have the courage to speak up for what they believe, and to make a stand for Christian morality in this time so devoid of these standards. Also remember those in many other areas of the world that are persecuted for preaching the gospel message. Ask that they will be given courage and fortitude whatever their circumstances.

Make Poverty History: an update

The ‘Make Poverty History’ campaign was launched in 2005 amidst rallying cries encouraging people to stand up against the problem of global poverty.

But 18 months down the line what is being done to fight the problem? Is poverty really being made history? Jonny Dew goes in search of answers...

The Campaign

The campaign got underway in January 2005 to coincide with the coming together of world leaders at the G8 summit in July later that year at Gleneagles in Scotland. The main goal was to put pressure on the leaders to take action as well as to increase public awareness of poverty. The project focused on five key areas: aid, debt, trade, HIV/AIDS and climate change.

The campaign was advertised in a number of different forms from encouraging people to show their support by wearing white wristbands to the ‘Live 8’ music concerts in London and around the world. These concerts will live long in the memories of many people, with the public and famous people alike uniting against the problem and urging the powers that be to change the lives of millions.

The campaign has continued into 2006 to highlight the fact that poverty is an ongoing problem. In October of this year there was a global attempt to set an official Guinness World record for the largest number of people ever to Stand Up Against Poverty in 24 hours. An attempt that took place in numerous locations throughout the world, it proved successful with 23,542,614 people standing up and pledging their support to the cause.

Also on 13 July, Scottish rock band ‘Travis’ stuck a giant post-it



note to the front door of 10 Downing Street to remind the Prime Minister before he left for the G8 summit in St Petersburg that although some progress has been made, poverty is not yet history. It was the first time anything other than a Christmas wreath has been put on the front door of No.10. Similar actions were staged in Canada, France, Germany and the US.

What happened to the promises?

Aid

In terms of aid it was agreed that the amount would be increased by \$50 billion each year until 2010. Even though this was seen as a huge success experts said that it still falls well short of what is necessary to make a difference. Campaigners also called for better aid with fewer strings attached. In the past, aid has been used to push third world countries into making reforms such as trade liberalisation which would benefit the richer countries. Even though the British government has promised not to make these conditions with its aid donations there is still reluctance from other countries to do the same.

Debt

Progress has clearly been made with cancelling third world debt. So far 19 countries have had their debts cancelled with others set to follow in the near future. However, large debts are still owed by those countries with the lowest income. These are the countries that need their debt cancelled more than any other. For example, servicing its US\$63 billion debt is the biggest single expenditure in the Philippines' national budget and the amount of debt still owed by all third world countries is a staggering \$2.3 trillion.

Feature – Make Poverty History

Trade

Little was promised on trade at Gleneagles, with G8 leaders pushing talks on this issue to the World Trade Organisation summit in December. However, the few promises that were made at Gleneagles have not been kept. Least developed countries were promised that all their products would be given duty-free access to the trade market. This has since been decreased to 97%, and whilst this may not seem like a big change it means that key exports can be excluded. Campaigners also still argue that developing countries must be given easier access to rich countries' markets.

HIV/AIDS

At the G8 summit it was also pledged that access would be available to treatment for HIV/AIDS to all those that needed it (an estimated 10 million people) by 2010. At the time this pledge was seen as a major breakthrough due to the fact that currently only 20% of those that require treatment have access to it. However, whilst the UK has contributed its fair share to the cause other countries urgently need to contribute also. Experts also argue that more emphasis needs to be put on prevention of the disease. Few people in developing countries realise the dangers or how the disease can be contracted.

Climate Change

Even though all countries at the summit signed an agreement to "Act with resolve and urgency now" in regards to the problem



MAKE POVERTY HISTORY

of climate change, little has been done since then. Canada has abandoned its targets to reduce greenhouse emissions and other countries are unlikely to reach their targets. The problem of climate change is seen as a problem that needs all countries pulling in the same direction and 'Christian Aid' wants all G8 countries to set an annual 'Carbon Budget' to bring down carbon emissions.

Plans are underway to develop the project further with the recent announcement from 'Church Action on Poverty and Housing Justice' that a major initiative is planned for 2008 to make poverty history in the UK.

Jonny Dew

Family News

Thanks

Barbara Shepherd would like to thank all the kind friends who have sent cards, brought flowers and meals and willingly done some 'odd jobs'.

I look forward to coming back after being housebound for so long.

In Touch

...welcomes all friends in the church to their annual New Year Dinner on Saturday January 13th at 7pm for 7.15pm. Free tickets available from Sue Waller. Donations please on the night to cover costs and the balance will be given to Worthing Churches Homeless Project.

Congratulations to Doris Bayley who celebrated her 100th Birthday on December 6th. Doris has been in Compton House for some time now, but before that she worshipped with us very regularly for many years.

Bereavement

We extend our love and sympathy to our next door neighbour, Paul (Green grocer) and his Wife Mandy, following the death of their young Son, Harry.

Please remember these folk in your

prayers, any others who have lost loved ones in this past year and those going through difficult times at this season of Christmas.

The Art Group

A small friendly group, that enjoy painting in watercolours. We meet every other Monday on the Church premises from 10.00 – 12.00. New members will be made very welcome. Our first meeting in 2007 is on the 9th January.

Doreen Fowler

The Fellowship

We are having two meetings in January. The first is a coffee morning on Saturday 20th, between 10.30am and 12 noon. For this we will be joined by members of the painting group, who we hope will display some of their work. There will be a Bring and Buy Stall.

Our usual January meeting is on Wednesday 24th at 2.45pm when our speaker will be Barry Turnwell. The title of his talk is 'Barry's Little Red Book'. There will be the usual Bring and Buy Stall.

We look forward to welcoming you all to these meetings, when we can enjoy fellowship together.

Balcombe United Reformed Church

Bramble Hill, Balcombe, RH17 6HR.

Contact: Mrs Leonie Wren (01444 811253)

Our services are held weekly at 10.30am.

Visitors are welcome to join us.

Speakers for this month are as follows:-

January	7th	Graham Campling
January	14th	Philip Wren
January	21st	Philip Wren
January	28th	Stuart Dew



Christian video game uproar in USA

A new Christian video game has sparked calls for a boycott from groups who say it is “training for religious warfare”.

The game, *Left Behind: Eternal Forces*, is based on a wildly successful series of novels about the struggles on earth after true believers ascend to heaven.

Players can command the army of good - the Tribulation Force - against the anti-Christ's Global Community.

The game's makers reject criticism, saying their detractors “have a clear hatred of Biblical Christianity”.

An alliance of liberal groups including the Christian Alliance for Progress, the Campaign to Defend the Constitution, and Talk2Action, have urged the giant retailer Wal-Mart, among others, to stop stocking the game, which was released last month.

“It's about religious warfare. The way to win is to convert or kill. You have both

the Inquisition and the Crusades,” says Frederick Clarkson of Talk2Action.

“Anybody who is not a follower of Jesus is the enemy,” he claims.

Mr Clarkson is particularly concerned that the \$39.95 (£20) game - which is rated for teenagers due to violence - is being marketed through churches in United States.

Jeffrey S Frichner, a co-founder of *Left Behind Games*, utterly rejects that characterisation of his game.

None of the missions in the game has a “convert-or-die” objective, he insists. “It's the anti-Christ that desires you to convert or die, and you are defending yourself against that on the good side,” he says. “You will absolutely lose each level and never win the game if you choose physical warfare as a means.”

BBC News, Washington – 14 December 2006

Local hedge ‘in memory’

The South of England Hedgelaying Society is planting a hedge in memory of David Marsden, a much respected Lindfield village postman, and the society's minute secretary.

The planting will be on Saturday 20th January, at the south end of the bowling green car park, from 11am till 12.15pm.

At 2.30pm a short dedicatory service which the Rev James Clarke will lead, with a contribution from a society member.

The public will be most welcome to either event, but particularly the memorial service.

Details: John Blake 01444 482414

Faithworks Awards ceremony

There are some amazingly innovative Christian projects up and down the country – meeting critical local needs, honouring God, and providing an opportunity for people to hear a little of His love. I recently attended the Faithworks Award Ceremony at the House of Commons where awards were presented, sponsored by Faithworks, Spring Harvest and Congregational Insurance. It was good to see prominent Christian Members of Parliament from all parties present, including Stephen Timms, Steve Webb and Alistair Burt.

One of the award winners was a Sussex project, the Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team. Volunteers from Eastbourne churches patrol the clifftop 365 nights a year, talking to people who might be contemplating suicide and offering follow-up counselling, advice on dealing with debt, and a safe house. The team are on call to Sussex Police 24 hours a day.

Churches were praised for working with the most marginalised people, being in the work for the long haul and doing things that others can't – or won't – do. Consistently the projects reported that people came back and asked questions about issues of faith, because someone had held out a helping hand at their time of need.

Below are just some of the other Christian projects which won awards, or

were shortlisted.

Open Door Tyneside supports failed asylum seekers who are destitute in Newcastle.

Barnabas Workshops in Ilford equip people with the skills, training and confidence to succeed in a competitive job market, recognising that employment is a doorway out of deprivation. The project had been on the brink of folding, but a donor had come to the rescue on the very day of the award ceremony.

Shine Girl is a self esteem course for year seven and eight girls on an estate in Bournemouth.

Glamis Adventure Playground has turned decaying waste ground into a playground offering supervised activities for children aged eight to fifteen in Shadwell.

The Open Blue Trust covers critical gaps in services to isolated communities in Wiltshire. A re-furbished double decker bus is used for toddlers' clubs, residents' cafes and after-school clubs

One 25 Limited is the lead agency in Bristol, dealing with the multi-faceted problems of street prostitution.

St. Andrews Memory Club in Great Yarmouth address the particular needs of those suffering from Alzheimer's, dementia and amnesia by providing a social environment where the problem is accepted and normalised.

Stuart Dew

The value of uniforms

As the public debate goes on about uniformed/non-uniformed youth organisations, 1st Lindfield Boys' Brigade Captain, Geoffrey Cocksedge, shares his personal views on the subject...

I'd like to operate in reflective mode this month, at the risk of sounding a bit pompous and boring – sorry, I get in that mood sometimes!

“Young people lack discipline”: a sweeping statement beloved of the popular press, but, sadly, there is only too much evidence that standards in general are too low. Are the young people themselves to blame? No! The collapse of adult authority in recent decades is the root cause, together with the low quality of much of family life, and until there is a cultural sea change, there is not a lot we can do about the lack of discipline among the kids. We simply have to do the best we can. Searching for antidotes, people in the corridors of power have been extolling the virtues of uniformed organisations, with their structured programmes, and emphasis on discipline and smartness. However, the organisations they have in mind are the pre-service cadets, and

some of the biggest beasts in the political arena are now making noises about pouring significant sums of taxpayers money (i.e. yours and mine) into starting cadet units in all (yes, all!) secondary schools. Now far be it for me to disparage the cadets, but what an own goal it would be if the churches disbanded, or simply failed to support, their own uniformed organisations, when they provide a Christian version of the same thing?

Because we live in an age where freedom (or is it really licence?) is preferred to discipline, the uniformed organisations are not going to attract the large memberships that they had in a previous generation. We know that, and have settled down to live with that, but it is a simple fact that they are doing a fine job, and are often creating an admirable esprit de corps among the young people they do recruit. It is to be hoped, therefore, that church folk

January church diary

6th

Saturday 8.45 – Sat. Morning Prayer
9.30am Meeting at URC

7th

Sunday 9.30am Communion
Ron Goodenough
11.00am Ron Goodenough
6.30pm Mike Gardiner

10th

Wednesday 12.30pm Lunch Fellowship

11th

Thursday 8.00pm Church Meeting

12th

Friday 12.30pm Lunch Fellowship

13th

Saturday 8.45 – Sat. Morning Prayer
9.30am Meeting at URC
7.00 In Touch Dinner

14th

Sunday 9.30am David Helyar -
Moderator
11.00am David Helyar
6.30pm Communion
Robert Busby
(Haywards Heath
and Burgess Hill)

20th

Saturday 8.45 – Sat. Morning Prayer
9.30am Meeting at URC
Fellowship Coffee
Morning

21st

Sunday 9.30am Jeremy Heath

Fair Trade Stall between services

11.00am Jeremy Heath

6.30pm David Jones

27th

Saturday 8.45 – Sat. Morning Prayer
9.30am Meeting at URC

28th

Sunday 9.30am Mike Gardiner

11.00am Communion

– Mike Gardiner

6.30pm Ron Goodenough

Flower Rota

Arranging

Distributing



January

7	Gladys Porter	Heather Swann
14	Anne Blake	Fiona Tingley
21	Mies Campling	Sue Tester
28	Mary Comber	Dorothy Forster

February

4	Chris Caswell	Jacqueline Wood
11	Vera Dorton	Barbara Shepherd
18	Jessie Green	Iris Bingham
25	Dorothy Forster	Heather Swann

**OTHER LOCAL EVENTS
LISTED ON BACK COVER**

Sunday services explained...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The value of uniforms

continued from page 11

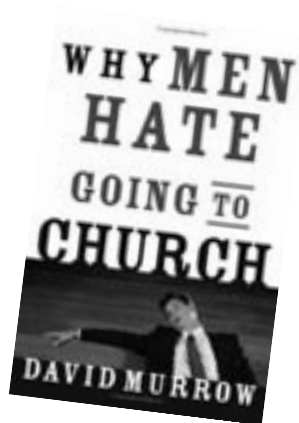
will not be deterred by antipathy to “military” styles, or scepticism about the attraction of uniforms, from continuing to support the dedicated Christian individuals who try so hard to reach young people through them.

As for girls! The question of admitting them to BB membership has been debated until the cows come home, but the Brigade movement as a whole has not wanted to move in that direction. Being a soft-hearted person, part of me would like to say ‘yes’, since I love young people of both genders, but the head must rule the heart, and the answer in the end has to be ‘no’. Our staff here at Lindfield feel the BB is too Boy-orientated to be of any use to girls; in any case, we think positive about Boys’ work, and believe that an organisation for them is a good and excellent thing in itself for which apology is not needed. Personally, I remain a convinced supporter of single sex education, and a sceptic about the co-educational variety. But this philosophical debate is ongoing.

Geoffrey Cocksedge, BB Captain

PS: despite what I have said above, the biggest youth organisation in this country, by far, is a uniformed one, the Girl Guides, while the BB has one of the best track records of any youth organisation for the percentage of Boys remaining in membership through their teens.

Why men hate going to church



Church member, Ray Smith, read a book recently that he wanted to share with us all. This is his review of the book “WHY MEN HATE GOING TO CHURCH” by David Murrow.

This is a well-researched book which helps one to understand better why men are so reluctant to go to church. It looks at what ‘drives’ men and what their ‘needs’ are.

Men, who are created in God’s image, aspire to do great things; they value risk and reward, accomplishment, heroic sacrifice, action and adventure. Masculinity in a man is shown through standing up to danger, bearing up under suffering and sacrificing oneself for the good of others. Men are hard-wired for risk taking, need a challenge or adventure and tend to be outdoor orientated.

Therefore Jesus with His strong leadership, blunt honesty and bold action mesmerised men.

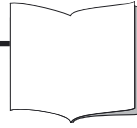
Men need a ‘purpose’, and Jesus had this with His huge vision – the kingdom of God - which involved nothing less than

a re-creation of the World, one person at a time.

Men are made with short attention spans, so Jesus’ parables which were brief, punchy and built around a little story or an object at hand were ideal. A five minute sermon by Peter resulted in the conversion of 3,000 men. The Church of the first century was a magnet to males; they had ‘take-charge’ men who risked everything in service to God. They spoke their minds and stepped on the toes of religious people. They were true leaders, tough guys who were feared and respected by the community. All these men had two things in common ;-

1. they had an intense commitment to God;
2. they weren’t what you’d call saintly.

Christianity was an adventure, where men had meaningful work and genuine discipleship



- a band of brothers united in purpose, mutually supportive and accomplishing great things. Spiritual Fathering was at its foundation, guiding and discipling, walking alongside men and bringing them to maturity. The Christian Faith is the world's biggest game of follow the Leader. Challenge is men's love language !

The question is how did a faith founded by a Man and His twelve male disciples become so popular with women but no longer with men ?

Apparently this started hundreds of years ago during the 13th century when in the church a call to weakness and passivity replaced the historic emphasis on struggle and self-sacrifice, and the 'gender-gap' (ratio of women to men) started, and by the 1800s this had become a yawning chasm. Charles Spurgeon wrote "There has got abroad a notion, somehow, that if you become a Christian you must sink your manliness and turn milksop."

The church and the Titanic have something in common: it's women and children first. The great majority of ministry is focused on children, next on women, and then, if there are any resources left, on men.

As more women and less men attended church, the emphasis understandably altered whereby the Churches valued more highly Safety over Risk, Stability over Change, Preservation over Expansion, and Predictability over Adventure. The emphasis was dominated by relationships - with Jesus and healthy ones with others - which men need, but not alone.

Adult women now outnumber adult men by almost two-to-one in a typical congregation, and are much more likely to volunteer; without the women's superhuman commitment the Church programmes would grind to a halt. Men sometimes feel as out of place as a ham sandwich at a bar mitzvah !

Today's young women seek adventure and challenges every bit as daunting as those sought by men. If the 'spiritual thermostat' is set at 'comfort/safety' rather than 'challenge/adventure' in Church, it's no wonder young adults and most men are withering in the pews.

The right balance is required between 'the feminine spirit' – supportive, nurturing & tender with people – and the 'masculine spirit' – concern for quality, effectiveness and achievement.

Men need to produce fruit – to

Book review

men futility is torture, so give him a pointless task if you want to demoralise him. Men have to be productive, they are results orientated – a man's strongest urge is to reproduce !

If your vision of Church is a place of comfort, safety and loving affirmation, realize that your vision may be keeping men away. 80% of Churches focus today on this, but few challenge each other and get out into the world and make a difference. Men feel smothered.

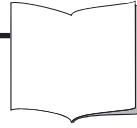
What is the way to attract men back to Church ?

The answer is a challenging church – one that doesn't over-comfort or over-confront. The Ministry is constantly pushing outward into the world, raising up leaders to foster a culture of person-to-person challenge. It comforts/loves people by providing consolation during times of sorrow. It stresses God's grace, not His anger. It does not coerce people or make them feel guilty but always invites people to join the adventure. It confronts through teaching that is direct and to the point. Leaders set high standards and ask much of the congregation. Make things too comfortable for a man and he'll lose interest. Try to control a man and he'll rebel.

Over-confront him and he'll resent you as a nag. But challenge him the way Jesus challenged the disciples and he will grow. A Church that challenges its members is a Church where men can thrive.

A culture of person to person challenge with DISCIPLESHIP must dominate the way-forward with " people leading each other to maturity in Christ" – one person sharpening another (Proverbs 27:17). A band of brothers spurring each other on toward love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24).

Churches have discarded teaching by example 'discipleship model' in favour of an 'academic model' - in a classroom - where men are less comfortable. Although reading, study, sermons and classes can help, these academic exercises cannot penetrate to the hidden places in a man's heart. Christ didn't hand out a study guide ! He demonstrated a life pleasing to God. His example, even more than His words, produced eleven men who shook the World. That is why a man who sat in Church for 30 years without much life change will be suddenly transformed after going on a mission trip. Men are changed by what they experience, not



necessarily by what they are told.

Matthew's gospel concludes (28: 19-20) :-

“Go therefore and make DISCIPLES of all the nations, BAPTISING them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, TEACHING them to observe all things that I have commanded you.”

Today's Church has reversed this process – we teach a lot of people, baptise some, but produce very few genuine disciples.

Christians use feminine themes, imagery and vocabulary, yet Jesus Christ's manliness and toughness are seldom spoken of in church, and men fall away because of the lack of it.

Church involvement is good for men – but since when do men do what's good for them! Men regard Churchgoing like a prostate exam; it's something that can save their lives, but it's so unpleasant and invasive, they put it off. Others see the worship service as their weekly dose of religion, a bitter elixir one must swallow to remain healthy, but not something to look forward to. So men avoid Church – and suffer for it.

Generally speaking men's gifts and abilities do not match

the ministry needs of the typical congregation. Most jobs in the Church require verbal and relational skills that men may not possess. They demand proficiency with children, music, teaching, hospitality or cooking. A woman is so much more valuable in church than a man because her natural gifts and life experiences enable her to fill so many slots.

Men are stimulated by images not words, yet these days Christianity is big on verbal learning and small on active learning. Church services are a deluge of verbal communication. Men find sermons boring not so much because of their content, but because of their format. When the church returns to the visual, hands-on style favoured by Jesus, men, young adults and women will all respond.

Christianity is still growing worldwide, but it is losing ground to two aggressive competitors: secularism and Islam. The church will be totally overrun by this duo – unless we re-engage men. Men have no idea how vital Christ is to the future of mankind. Nor do they realize how needed they are. Without men and their warrior spirit in the church, all is lost.

Ray Smith

Stop the Traffik

Hopefully, by now you are all aware of the organisation **Stop the Traffik** which is a global coalition of organisations working together to fight against people trafficking. The initiative will climax on March 25th 2007 'Freedom Day', with local events worldwide. The day will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the end of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade; yet more importantly the challenge for the future as we work towards freedom from travesties such as people trafficking.

In previous Good News we have given background as to what Stop the Traffik is. This time we want to explain some of the projects it is involved in.

In China, The Salvation Army International Development are working to protect and enhance the human rights of persons who have been, or who are in danger of becoming, enslaved through human trafficking in ten communities in China. For the purpose of this programme, "human rights" specifically means that individuals are not subjected to coercion, violence, and deception as methods to create an enslaved condition.

In India Oasis' Aruna project addresses the complex issues of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE), prostitution and trafficking in Mumbai.

In the Philippines, Jubilee

Action successfully rescues children from sexually abusive situations and provides a residential home complete with a therapeutic recovery programme.

In Uganda, Tearfund partner The Noah's Ark centre provides shelter for thousands of children, where they are encouraged to play sports and do schoolwork before sleeping in safety. Noah's Ark offers the children basic medical treatment, HIV and Aids education, peace-building sessions, trauma counselling and follow-up visits to the families of night commuters. The emphasis shifts from being an emergency shelter to a shelter that provides counselling and emotional support as a long-term support structure.

In Nepal, Esther Benjamin's Trust (EBT) is committed



to ending the trafficking of Nepalese children, into abusive and exploitative Indian Circuses. EBT Retrieval teams regularly visit circuses to rescue trafficked children. Upon returning the children to safety they reunite them with their families and provide long term support.

These are just five of the projects that Stop the Traffik is supporting. More information can be found on these and others on their excellent website which I encourage you to look at: www.stophetraffik.org Please take time to look at the missions board and pick up any information. If you would like to purchase a key ring to remind you to pray for this work and the men, women and children caught up in trafficking around the world then please put a minimum donation of £1 in the bowl on the missions table or include it in your missions envelope. If you would like to give to the work of

the Stop the Traffik please use the special envelopes and place in the offertory at any Sunday service. Please complete a Gift Aid Slip if appropriate.

There are also Stop the Traffik declaration postcards to sign to show your support to stop the traffic which will then be sent on to the United Nations and National Governments.

We hear from old freinds who have since moved out of sight, but not mind...

Norman and Sarah Smith

Dear Friends,

I have been asked by the Editorial team to let you know what Sarah and I have been up to since leaving Lindfield five years ago. Sorry if you already know most of it.

After a short part time ministry in Shropshire we moved into Storrington two years ago. The small detached property was kindly provided by the URC Retired Minister's Housing Association. It is situated in a quiet road within easy walking distance of the village. Sarah loves the garden. Norman tries to avoid helping in case he mistakes a plant for a weed, or gives a short back and sides to a tree that is about to flower!

We currently attend the Methodist Church which is just five minutes walk away. We find the circuit system quite frustrating, and are puzzled at the way new ministers are appointed. In fact the process astounds us. Our minister retires next summer so someone may be introduced to us very soon. On the other hand we may not get anyone because there are not enough ministers to go round. We belong to a fortnightly house group, which sometimes starts with a meal. Sarah works in the church office, and I run the small library, write the odd article for the church magazine ("Shep the Sheepdog" has replaced the "Ryecroft Squirrel"), and arrange occasional book sales. We have recently been encouraged by a link between the church and a small group of keen evangelical Christians who are working in something like 12 local schools. They take assemblies, teach, and organise after school clubs. Occasionally they run a week long event. Their work is rewarding and Sarah has just started investigating how she might get involved.

We are attempting to play our part in the community. Once a month we do 'Meals on Wheels' on the day when customers have to pay. Some are brilliant at having the cheque or cash ready on the table. Others have not remembered the significance of the day and that can lead to hunt the cheque book or the purse. I then forget the amount I am supposed to be collecting! We visit lonely elderly folk on a weekly basis as Befrienders enlisted by the Horsham Volunteer Bureau. Sarah is heavily involved in the local HELP scheme which transports people to hospital (anywhere from Brighton to Chichester) and doctors' surgeries. We could tell you some amusing incidents but space does not permit! I have also taken up short mat bowls. The area is ideal for walking. So far we have not taken full advantage of that fact. Hopefully next year!!

I have found it particularly difficult to be a 'well behaved' retired minister, who does not interfere. It can be so frustrating sitting in the congregation! I guess that is why I have passed through several periods of spiritual dryness. Such experiences have helped me to understand where other people are struggling. Sarah and I are now spending more time in the evenings reading the Word and praying together as well as having our own devotions in the mornings. Initially I virtually refused all preaching engagements, but have now agreed to lead worship occasionally in three local churches in the West Sussex Area Ministry. I have tried to read more books, especially biographies. I still enjoy browsing in bookshops and dip into the odd theological lightweight. I have just acquired Alister McGrath's "Doubt in Perspective", Billy Graham's "The Journey", and Philip Yancey's "Prayer".

Friends reunited

We recently popped back to Shropshire to see the outstanding improvement to the Sanctuary, which we encouraged them to attempt while we were there. Some had thought about the project for years but had never got to the point of actually believing it was possible. Their new minister, who is my age (!), has just been inducted.

Most people who retire say they wonder how they had time to go to work. The days certainly seem to pass very quickly. But it is good to have more time to spend with family and to welcome folk into our home. Because Clare is still in Lindfield we bump into some of you in the High Street. It's even good to chat to a few of your local shopkeepers who are still trading. My other daughter Debbie is now living in Bristol, which is near to where Sarah used to live before we married nearly ten years ago.

If you are passing through Storrington please feel free to ring the door bell – 5 Greenfield Way. A phone call on 01903 743834 could save you a wasted diversion.

Sarah joins me in sending love in Christ,
Norman Smith

P.S. We are taking a couple from the Methodist Church to Spring Harvest – might see you there?

Quotes with New Year resolutions in mind

The minutes spent at the dinner table won't make you fat – but the seconds will.
– Anon

History teaches us the mistakes we are going to make this year. – Anon

Great ideas need landing gears as well as wings.

– C D Jackson

The conduct of our lives is the only proof of the sincerity of our hearts. – Robert Wilson

Your ambition, not your worded prayer, is your real creed.
– Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Most of us would get along well if we used the advice we give to others. – Anon

Our religious activities should be ordered in such a way as to have plenty of time for the cultivation of the fruits of solitude and silence.

– A W Tozer

Marriage is a perpetual test of character. – Anon

What is the use of travelling at a fast speed when you are going in the wrong direction?

– Bernhard Langer

No man need stay the way he is.
– Harry Emerson Fosdick

Runner's Blog (2)

Hebrews 12 1a – 2b "...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus...."

Paul Young, the Director of 'Off the Fence' trust, with limited exercise since leaving school some 28 years ago, and having suffered pneumonia and multiple organ failure during early 2006 continues to be determined to participate in the Brighton ½ Marathon on 18th February 2007. He is in Australia for the first part of January on preaching engagements, and perhaps fitting in some 'warm weather training', and is on record that he will be wearing a 'superman outfit' on the day.

Besides Paul, another man in his forties, Nigel, will also be running for the above Charity. Nigel, whose moment of fame arose when he won Anne Robinson's 'Weakest Link' was also seriously ill in 2006 suffering a heart-attack at the age of 44, but he too is starting to train for the 18th February.

Off The Fence, as at early December, have 39 definite entries running for them with ladies counting for about a third of this number. For

the majority of the people 'signed up' this 'event' is somewhat of a 'step into the unknown' as the 21 kilometres (13.1 miles) is two or even three times further than they have ever run before.

Our local interests have had differing months :

Firstly, with Alex Hall not reaching the minimum age (17) until June 2007, the Organisers have resisted all efforts to allow Alex to run;

Secondly, Adrian Cookney, whose longest previous race is 10 K (6.2 miles), has suffered a reoccurrence of a knee injury playing squash in November, but is beginning running again from mid-December;

Lastly, Ray Smith ran his first road race of 2006 – Brighton 10K – in the second half of November which he completed in 47 minutes 52 seconds, but with seasonal rains meaning training now only on roads, increased road mileage is bringing the reoccurrence of 'hip-problems'.

Please consider 'sponsoring' the many folks who intend to 'struggle' around the 13.1 mile course, probably on a chilly day in February - a sponsorship form will be on the Board in LURC during January.

Ray Smith

Church activities

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

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

Healing services as announced

PRAYER MEETINGS:

- Mon 9.30am An Hour of Prayer
- Wed 9.45am Short Service of Intercession
- Thur 8.00pm Church Prayer Evening (As announced)
- Sat 8.45 Three Churches Prayer Meeting.
– 9.30am Venue rotates between the three churches.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES:

- Mon 6.30pm Boys' Brigade – Junior Section (8–11 years)
- 7.45pm Boys' Brigade – Company Section (11+ years)
- Tue 10.00am Stepping Stones (Parents and toddlers)
- 7.45pm In Touch (4th Tuesday)
- Wed 2.45pm The Fellowship (4th Wed.)
- 5.30pm Zest 1:2, 3:4
- 6.45pm Zest 5:6:7
- Thur 10.00am Pop-In (for coffee and a chat)
- 8.00pm Church Meeting (2nd Thur.)
- Fri 5.30pm Boys' Brigade – Anchor Boys (5–7 years)
- 7.30pm Zest plus (8+)

House Groups normally meet 1st and 3rd Thursday

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

Phonebook

Church (payphone):

01444 484620

Boys' Brigade:

Geoffrey Cocksedge
01444 474007

Cradle Roll:

Sue Tester 01444 482810

Flowers:

Betty Billins 01444 484494

Hall Booking Secretary:

Audrey McKee 01444 415031

In Touch:

Sue Waller 01444 455047

Lunch Fellowship:

Wednesday:
Janet Drayton 01444 456161

Friday:

Gwen Hillman 01444 456963
Anne Parker 01444 473519

Magazine: Editor:

David Tingley 01444 451024

The Fellowship:

Jessie Green 01444 452708
Roy Billins 01444 484494

Stepping Stones:

Janet Goodenough
01444 417002

Transport:

Tina Elphick 01444 484440

Youth and Children's Work

Co-ordinator:

Adrian Cookney 01444 440029

Zest Co-ordinator:

Clare Nibloe 01444 484683

Powersource Co-ordinator:

Dawn Walters 01444 441601

Local events



For more information on activities going on in Lindfield, **Lindfield Times** is also available from around the village.

Local hedge 'in memory'

Saturday 20th January, 11am

The South of England Hedgelaying Society are planting a hedge in memory of **David Marsden**, a much respected Lindfield village postman, and the societies minute secretary.

The planting will be at the south end of the bowling green car park, from 11am till 12.15pm.

At 2.30pm a short dedicatory service in which the Rev James Clarke will lead, with a contribution from a society member.

The public will be most welcome to either event, but particularly the memorial service.

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