

GoodNEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

MARCH 2008



Spring is in the air

PLUS...

- Why was the Cross necessary?
- How is the Trinity like a computer?
- Have you ever been asked why does God allow suffering?





in our villages, towns & cities

A Declaration of Hope for 2008.

With God's help:

I affirm that in 2008, I intend to bring:-

Harmony in place of discord
Opportunities out of challenges
Praise instead of criticism
Encouragement to replace despair.

We affirm that in our Church, 2008 will be a year of:-

Holiness and wholeness
One purpose for many people
Prayers that lead to action
Everyone finding a place to belong.

We pray that for our community, 2008 will be a year of:-

Healing for those who are broken
Orders where there is chaos
Protection for the vulnerable
Enterprises for all.

We pray for our nation, that 2008 will be a year of:-

Health of body, mind and spirit
Open-hearted attitudes
Passion for justice and mercy
Expectations and visions fulfilled.

We pray that The God of all Hope will give us the faith and courage to live lives that will release HOPE this year.

I make this declaration and pray this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Dear Friends...



Rejoice!

Mary was asked “Why are you looking for the living among the dead”. Jesus had been crucified and all his followers had fled, frightened and disillusioned. His work was finished almost before it had begun. Yet within weeks these same frightened men were hailed as those “who were turning the world upside down” and in a few centuries the Roman empire that had persecuted them, throwing them to the lions, determined to crush them had become Christian. What had changed?

The messenger had continued “He is not here; he is risen! Remember what he told you, whilst he was still with you in Galilee?”. The historical fact of the resurrection made all the difference. Jesus had told them beforehand that after three days he would rise from the dead and it had happened. Jesus is alive!

On Good Friday we will be meeting to reflect on the death of Jesus, sent by his Father to die on a cross so that we can receive forgiveness and be reconciled to God, bought back into a loving relationship with him as our Father. Then on Sunday we will be celebrating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, proof that he had conquered death and achieved forgiveness for us.

Please join with us at this significant time in the Christian year as we rejoice in all that God has done.

David Jones, Joint church secretary



GoodNEWS

This magazine is produced by: Lindfield United Reformed Church, 50 High Street, Lindfield, West Sussex RH16 2HL.
© Lindfield URC 2008

Editorial Team: Val Cookney (editor), Steven Farley, Jacqui Adams and Martin Hall.

Editorial Oversight / Proof-reading: Hilary Shepherd

Printing: Tom Burford & Sureprint Litho

Next copydate: Wednesday 12th March, 5pm.

All contributions should be emailed to goodnews@lindfieldurc.org.uk, or hard copy placed in the 'GoodNEWS' pigeon hole at the rear of the church. Please ensure that you include your contact details, in case of query. You can contact Val Cookney on 01444 440029.

Directory



Minister: Vacant at present

Church Secretaries:

Mrs Sue Waller

58 Queens Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 1EE

Tel: 01444 455047

Email: susanwaller@lineone.net

Mr David Jones

13 William Allen Lane, Lindfield, RH16 2SA

Tel: 01444 483037

Email: dlandfc13wal@talktalk.net

Church Treasurer and Accountant:

Mrs. Eileen Jacques,

23 Canton House, Great Heathmead,

Haywards Heath. RH16 1FD

A list of serving Elders can be found in Who's Who?

Editorial



David Helyar writes a very insightful and thought provoking article on 'waiting'. How Jesus is our example and then asks the question; do we wait on Him in our lives? Our thanks go to David for this.

Ever wanted a different analogy on the Trinity? Well read on and you will find one in these pages. Have you ever been asked why does God allow suffering? Mike gives us some answers to this question.

There are a lot of reminders and adverts for concerts and happenings for the coming month. So it may be worth having pen and diary to the ready as you read through these pages.

Finally, just to pass on our collective thanks to all those who have been so encouraging to us, the Editorial Team, in the past few months.

Val

Prayer *FOCUS*



In January we focused on giving thanks and praise to God. **F**ebruary was an opportunity to pray for one another. (If you've not completed this, may I encourage you to do so.) **M**arch sees the wonderful Christian celebration of Easter (23rd), and to a lesser degree an opportunity to remember Mothers (2nd). So during this month may we focus on:

Mothers - Thank God for your own Mother and recall the lessons in life that she may have taught you. Pray for all mothers, that they might be loving, wise and encouraging, and that they feel appreciated, not taken for granted. Then there are Grandmothers and Great Grandmas and the special relationships they have with their grandchildren. Pray for Foster Mothers and Step Mothers where relationships can be difficult. Pray for Mothers who are in the spotlight, like our Queen, Politicians and Celebrities. Thank God for very special people like Mother Teresa, and remember those who continue her wonderful work. And Mary, the Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ – her faithful obedience to God changed the world. Thank God for her.

“God of all compassion and kindness, we pray for women who find deep joy in their mothering roles. Please comfort those who are worried, bereaved or estranged from their children and also women who face the disappointment of childlessness. Amen”

Easter – Good Friday, our Lord's final hours hanging on that Cross; bearing on himself the sins of the world – our sins! Remember Christ's suffering and give thanks that it was on our behalf that His sacrifice was made. Confess your wrong actions, thoughts or words to your Heavenly Father, so that you can experience that forgiveness that is Jesus' redeeming gift to us. Praise God that we can celebrate again the risen Christ, the fulfilment of His purpose in coming to earth in human form. Thank God for His saving grace, His daily mercies, His love for mankind, manifested in the life of His Son. On Easter Day the victory over death was won. Ask God to help you live your life victoriously in His strength.

“Lord Jesus Christ, our risen Saviour! We rejoice that you have cancelled sin, defeated death and overcome the power of Satan through Your glorious death and resurrection. Thank You for Your amazing grace that has set us free, for eternity. Amen.”

(The prayers quoted are from the CARE Concise Prayer Guide)



A Long Wait

For nearly two years, Lindfield United Reformed Church has lived and served without the leadership of a full-time minister of word and sacrament. The long wait, however, is at last nearly over, and the church can now look forward in eager anticipation to the arrival of the Revd. Charles Martin after Easter.

Most of us are not very good at waiting. It is not just children who find it difficult to wait for Christmas, a birthday, or some other special event. We live in a world in which we expect things to be “instant”. It cuts across the grain when we find ourselves having to wait, even when we inwardly recognise that “waiting” can be a good Christian discipline and “patience” is part of the fruit of the Spirit.

Some years ago I read a most helpful and challenging book by W.H. Vanstone entitled “The Stature of Waiting.” As the author reflects on the life of Jesus Christ, so he reminds us that the first part of each of the four Gospels describes the ministry of Jesus in active terms. The verbs are all in the active tense. Jesus preaches, teaches, heals, forgives, calls people to follow

Him and then serves as Leader. In the last part of each gospel most of the verbs change to the passive tense. Jesus is captured, tried, tortured, spat upon, mocked, led out to die and hung on a cross. The Passion of our Lord - which we recall through this season of Lent and Holy Week - is one of humbly waiting on God the Father. Silent before Pontius Pilate, Jesus is led dumb like a lamb to the slaughter. The Passion is all in the passive tense as Jesus waits silently for God’s will to be fulfilled through His own self-giving.

For Jesus, the hours of His Passion are a very long wait. Deserted by His own closest friends, despised and rejected by the leaders of the Jews, humiliated by the occupying powers, even feeling forsaken by the Father, those hours must



seem endless as He silently gives of His all.

Why does He allow it happen to Him? Why doesn't He take action and bring the verbs back into the active tense? He lets it happen that way so that all who wait with Him, who trust Him, who give themselves to Him, discover that His self-giving on the cross is the means by which we are forgiven, healed, restored, raised to newness of life and hope. That is the measure of His love. A love that waits endlessly for our response. A love that will never let us go.

The waiting of Jesus is not quite over. It requires time in the stone cold tomb. It requires waiting for the third day to arrive. It requires waiting for the Father to raise Him from death. For death has no power to hold the Son of God.

Only then, in the closing part of each gospel, can the verbs return to the active tense. Jesus, raised from the dead,

reassures His friends, eats with them by the lakeside, breathes His peace upon them, leads them out to Bethany, and calls them to wait – to wait until they are clothed with power from on high, to wait until they are empowered by the Holy Spirit. Another long wait – or so it seems. How do the disciples spend the time until the day of Pentecost arrives? But that's another part

of the story – and it, too, must wait. It must wait until we have allowed the message of Christ's Passion and Resurrection to stir our hearts and renew our discipleship.

How prepared are we to wait? There isn't really much choice if we are to be true to the Christ

“For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.”

(Psalm 62: 1)



Feature – A long wait



who waits for us and who waits on us.

We must wait for Him as we pray. Remember that lovely verse from the Psalms: “For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.” (Psalm 62: 1) Much of prayer is waiting on God, ready to listen to His word and then to be obedient to it. Dutch Sheets, in his amazing book entitled “Intercessory Prayer”, says: “We must wait in His presence and allow all ministry, including our warfare, to be born of relationship.” It is our relationship with God which is the source of all true service in His name.

We must wait on Him for our strength. “Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40:31)

We must engage in the work and mission to which Christ calls us and for which we are equipped by the Holy Spirit, “even as we wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 1: 7)

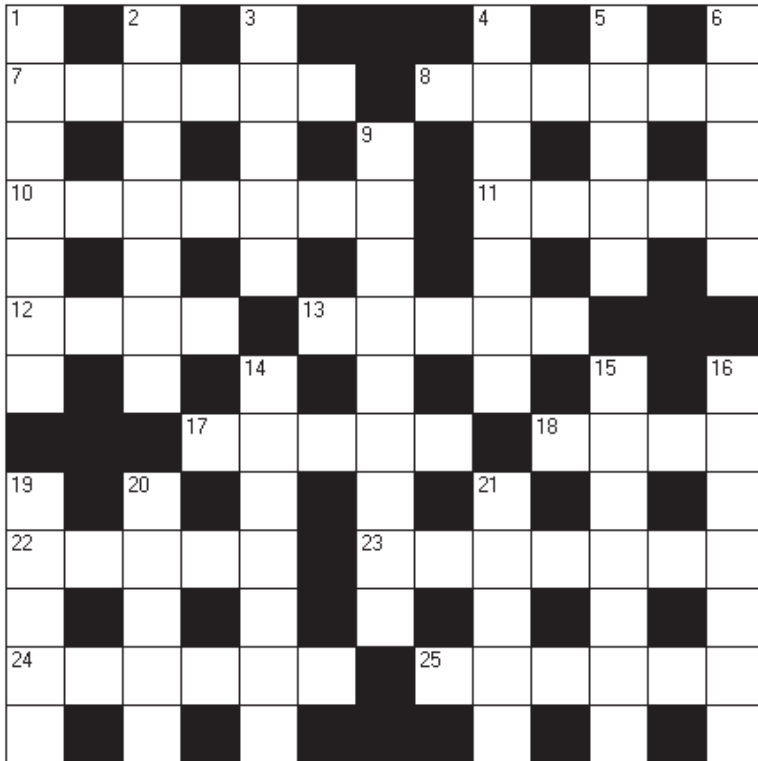
Often it will seem a long wait. Sometimes it will not be our

natural inclination to wait. But never will we wait for God in vain, and always He brings His blessing upon those who “wait patiently for the Lord.” – (Psalm 40:1)

Finally, may I say how good it has been to share fellowship with you during these last months as together we have waited for God’s will to be revealed to us so that Charles might be called to the pastorate. It is good now to wait with you as preparations are made for the Induction Service on 19th April and Charles is welcomed into your midst. It will be good to watch and wait as that ministry unfolds, minister and people together waiting on God for the fulfilment of His mission in Balcombe and Lindfield.

Thank you for the privilege and opportunity of working with you. May God bless your worship and witness during this season of Passion and Easter and as you go forward in faith, hope and love with a new minister to guide you.

David L. Helyar



answers on
page 24

Across

- 7 Bigger (6)
- 8 9 down having charge of a diocese (6)
- 10 eg Rome or Lisbon (7)
- 11 Mother-in-law of Ruth (5)
- 12 Garden home of Adam and Eve (4)
- 13 Christian symbol (5)
- 17 She _____ no-one (Zeph 3.2) (5)
- 18 Description of the horse ridden by 3 across in Revelation ch. 6 (4)
- 22 ..they _____ the winepresses (Job 24.11) (5)
- 23 City where the disciples were first called Christians in Acts ch. 11 (7)
- 24 Country (6)
- 25 More hallowed (6)

Down

- 1 Darken (7)
- 2 Fell like the bindings on Samson's hands in Judges ch. 15 (7)
- 3 A king's wrath is its messenger, according to Proverbs ch. 16 (5)
- 4 Animal whose cubs are scattered in Job ch. 4 (7)
- 5 Fire an arrow like Jehoshaphat in 2 Kings ch. 13 (5)
- 6 24 across whose 10 across is Madrid (5)
- 9 Priest (9)
- 14 Angel of the Abyss in Revelation ch. 9 (7)
- 15 Included in the canon of the bible (7)
- 16 Ropes for fastening animals (7)
- 19 ..the basin with its _____ (Ex 31.9) (5)
- 20 God (5)
- 21 ..observe them on the delivery _____ (Ex 1.16) (5)





St Peter &
St James
HOSPICE &
CONTINUING
CARE CENTRE

Haywards Heath U3A Jazz Appreciation Group
presents

JAZZ

AT WESLEY HALL

with the Geoff Simkins Quartet

Geoff Simkins (Alto Sax), Nikki Iles (Piano),
Simon Woolf (Bass) & Martin France (Drums)



Methodist Church
Perrymount Road
Saturday 8th March 2008
8.00 pm

DOORS OPEN 7.30 pm

TICKETS £8

available from Halcyon Bookshop,
The Broadway, Haywards Heath

£10 on the door

ALL PROCEEDS TO
ST PETER & ST JAMES HOSPICE

Spring

“Spring!” What a great word and so full of good meanings. The original meaning was to jump or leap, but at this time of year the main thing that springs to mind is the season, officially March to May. However, it’s only in the last 500 years that we have used Spring to describe the season – one of new life and renewed hope for the future, as fresh plants spring from the ground.

Spring is a wonderful time of year when everyone begins to throw off the winter gloom of long dark nights and dull grey days and looks forward instead to the warmth and light of summer. It’s a time when, not surprisingly, we begin to walk with a spring in our step – and that’s another meaning of spring, the coiled up bits of metal or plastic that are so important in our lives, keeping our clocks and watches on time, year in year out, and smoothing our ride across rough ground. Within limits, whatever you do to a spring it returns to its original shape. You can pull them, bend them, put pressure on them and they always return to the same shape – if only I could be as dependable in my own life when under pressure! Another definition of spring is a source of pure, clean water, to refresh and revitalise. Look at how much the advertisers of spring water make of the qualities of their products, for example Highland, Drench and Buxton’s.

These qualities were recognised in the Bible as well. In Jeremiah 2 v 13, God describes Himself as, “...the spring of living water...” and, in John 4 v 14, Jesus says, “...the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life...”. So, thank God that Spring is here again, but also rejoice that we can be refreshed, whatever the season, in the spring waters that Jesus has promised to whoever believes in Him!

Martin Hall



Home Evangelism

This may be a new name for many of us but Home Evangelism is the Mission that John Goodway serves with. John has visited our church several times over the last few years and is supported by us on a regular basis. He will be speaking at our Men's Breakfast on Saturday 8th March at Saltworkz Café and preaching at both of our morning services on the 9th

We will hear more about John's work in the area but in the meantime the following is a potted history of Home Evangelism:

It was first established as The Christian Colportage Association in 1874 following the visit of a young costermonger, who, challenged in his new-found faith, thought that God was calling him to sell Bibles instead of lumber. He called at the door of a Mr. Robert Paton, a Christian man, who saw the zeal of the young man and founded the organisation with the help of others.

Its original constitution contained the following vision:

'to promote the circulation of Christian literature; the Holy Scriptures; and books, periodicals, tracts etc., founded thereon, and agreeable thereto.'

This was to be achieved by the evangelist 'going from house to house offering Christian

literature, and distributing tracts by the way, to visit fairs and market places in his District and, generally, to carry on evangelistic work, especially on the Lord's Day'.

Aspects of the work described in 1933 showed the visitation as including fair grounds, hop pickers' camps, public houses, workhouses, open air meetings, race courses, army camps, gipsy camps, night watchmen, and children's work.

F.H. Wintmore writing in 'Two Feet for God' circa 1972 described the early work thus: 'The early evangelists went forth in the fullness of faith in the promise of God. They went into hospitals, almshouses, common lodging houses; to market places in various towns and cities; to seamen and factory workers; house to house; to groups of workers; to the afflicted such as deaf and dumb; to country fairs; into cottage meetings

and public houses - sent forth to be channels of blessing to thousands of lost souls'.

Such was the early history of the mission.

At the height of the 'colporteurs' era there were around 140 men and women visiting homes on a regular basis. Many of the contacts were folk 'in service' in large houses. Many were literate but not well off enough to own their own Bible. A doorstep conversation and a reasonably priced book or Scripture was welcomed.

Unfortunately in the 1940's and 1950's, it became too difficult to sell sufficient literature to support a man and his family financially, and so a major change came about by paying the men a small but regular wage.

The number of 'employed' people slowly diminished over the next few years. Today we have 6 salaried evangelists and 9 voluntary (HEAT) evangelists.

The Council (Trustees) have been challenged to continue updating the way the mission works - keeping abreast of changing social structures whilst not deviating from the original

purpose of sharing the Gospel on a one to one basis.

A more modern name, a contemporary style and the encouraged development of the ministry of the individual evangelists in their particular areas of gifting and skill, has brought the mission up to date.

Today, we are a modern mission, taking the Gospel, in a variety of ways, to the 80% of the population who still never venture through the doors of any church.

The message hasn't changed, and the organisation is still developing to meet the challenges of today - and the outcome - well that will remain a mystery for the time being, but one day we shall know just how successful we have been in sharing the Gospel through all these years.

More information and literature is available at the mission display. If you would like to give to the work of Home Evangelism please use the special envelopes and place your donation in the offertory at any Sunday service. Please complete a Gift Aid Slip if appropriate

Thank you



March church diary

1st

Saturday 8.45 – Prayer Meeting
9.30am at All Saints

2nd
Sunday

Mothering Sunday

10.30am Mothering Sunday
& Communion
Dan McQuillin
6.30pm Stuart Dew

5th

Wednesday 8.00pm Lent Groups – All Saints

7th

Friday 1.30pm Women's World
Day of Prayer –
Evangelical Free

8th

Saturday 8.45 – Prayer Meeting
9.30am at All Saints
Elders Quiet Day
Men's Breakfast
– Saltzworks Cafe

9th

Sunday 9.30am John Goodway -
Home Evangelist
11.00am John Goodway
6.30pm Graham Daniels –
Christians in Sport,
Clair Hall

12th

Wednesday 12.30pm Lunch Fellowship
8.00pm Lent Groups
– All Saints

13th

Thursday 8.00pm Church Meeting

14th

Friday 12.30 Lunch Fellowship

15th

Saturday 8.45 – Prayer Meeting
9.30am at All Saints

16th

Sunday **Celebr8 Gift Day**
9.30am Stuart Dean –
Curate at All Saints
11.00am Stuart Dean
6.30am Mike Gardiner

19th

Wednesday 7.30pm Ashdown Singers
– Faure's Requiem
LURC
8.00pm Lent Group – All Saints

20th

Thursday 8.00pm Maundy Thursday
Service with
Communion
– Venue tba

21st

Friday **Good Friday**
10.30am Good Friday
Service – Graham
Campling

22nd

Saturday 8.45 – Prayer Meeting
9.30am at All Saints

23rd

Sunday **Easter Sunday**
9.30am Easter Day
– David Jones
11.00am Communion
– David Jones
6.30pm David Walters

25th

Tuesday 7.45pm In Touch

28th

Wednesday 2.45pm Afternoon Fellowship
7.30pm Elders

27th

Thursday 8.00pm Church Monthly
Prayer Meeting -
Lounge

29th

Saturday 8.45 – 9.30am Prayer Meeting
at All Saints

30th

Sunday 9.30am P-J Guy
11.00am P-J Guy
6.30pm Ron Goodenough

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 always welcome to join us.

Speakers for this month are as follows:-

2nd Mike Gardiner

9th Michael Davies

16th David Jones

23rd EASTER DAY – joint with LURC

30th Philip Wren

**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 Fellowship

Our meeting in March is on Wednesday 26th at 2.45pm, when we welcome again our good friend Stuart Dew. His talk is entitled, 'We are what we are – What it means to be reformed'

This sounds a thought-provoking subject and we should be in for a most interesting afternoon.

We extend a very warm welcome to all, and there will be our usual Bring and Buy Stall.

In Touch

Tuesday 25th March, 7.45pm

We are very pleased that Brian Tuppen has agreed to come and talk to us again. His subject is "Bringing Poetry to Life" – he will be showing slides illustrating poems read by Stuart and Carol Marsh.

If you have not been before, this evening will be a good introduction to see what a friendly group we are!

Barbara Shepherd

Bereavement

On **Tuesday 5th February Molly Cotton**, one of our regular worshippers at the 11o'clock Service was called home after a short illness. Molly was such a bright and happy person and was always so pleased to welcome visitors to her bungalow at Westall House. Molly moved here from Suffolk after her husband died and to be near her daughter and son-in-law Wendy and Bob.

Molly took a great interest in her family and was very proud of her two grandsons and two small great granddaughters. Although no longer able to take an active role in Church life she was always so appreciative of the fellowship that she found at Lindfield and will be much missed.

Thank you

"Be still and know that I am God". This has always been a favourite quote of mine. Over the last many weeks it became even more special. To say thank you to all my dear friends and colleagues at Lindfield URC is an understatement. Your prayers, thoughts, cards, flowers, etc, have meant so much. I really have felt His wonderful healing arms about me. Thank you for all your Christian love.

Jessie Green

Easter Pilgrimage Walk

Easter Monday 24th March 2008

The Easter Monday Walk will be a 4-mile circular walk from Hurstpierpoint.

It is a flat walk with no stiles!! There will be three stops for worship at a variety of venues, finishing early afternoon. More details from Barbara Shepherd.

Please sign up on the list in the hallway if you would like to join us.

Why does God allow suffering?

Of all the mysteries concerning God, this is perhaps the most difficult, especially since it is not just an abstract debating point but a very painful everyday reality. For many people it is the biggest stumbling-block in coming to faith.

We read that scripture is like “a light shining in a dark place.” Can the Bible give us any insight into the problem of suffering? I can only share with you a few thoughts that have helped me – they form themselves into four biblical truths which I see as cornerstones, or, if you like, the four corner pieces that help you tackle a difficult jigsaw puzzle:-

1. Genesis chapter 1 teaches us that God created a perfect world, and that he was satisfied with his creation. (Gen 1v31)
2. Suffering entered into God’s perfect creation when it was spoiled by sin (as Paul Hardingham explained last month).
3. Far from remaining aloof from the suffering of the human race, God feels our pain – see, for example, Gen 6v6 and the beautiful eleventh chapter of Hosea. God’s involvement in our suffering reaches its climax at the cross of Calvary, where the sinless Jesus suffered to pay the price for the sins of the whole human race. (see for example John 1v29, 1 Pet 2v24). He has promised to be with those who trust in him, and many Christians can testify to being upheld by God’s grace whilst passing through bereavement, illness and persecution.
4. One of the clearest teachings of the Bible is that one day, God will create a new heaven and a new earth, restoring to his spoiled creation the beauty it once had, with an end to all suffering and pain (see for example Revelation 21). Those who trust in Jesus have, by his grace, the joy of being part of that new creation.

By no means do these truths serve to answer all the questions of the sceptical, still less to ease the pain of an aching heart. But they reassure me that we do not live in a meaningless universe, at the mercy of capricious fortune. We trust in the God who promises that nothing can separate us from his love (Romans 8v 31-39) and meanwhile we say with the Apostle Paul, “Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.” (1 Cor 13v12).

Mike Gardiner

Further reading:

Philip Yancey:
“Where is God when it Hurts”

C S Lewis:
The Problem of Pain”

Nicky Gumbell:
“Searching Issues”
(Chapter 1)



A Celebration Dance

At a recent Sunday service a video was shown of children in Africa who, for the sake of a relatively small amount of money, could have a better chance in this world. It was with this image in mind that I set about organising a dance. Our good friend Mac Turner and his band agreed to join with the Perdidos to play at the King Edward Hall on Friday (please note) 7th March 2008 at 7.30pm. Barn Dance Music and music from the dance band era.

There will be cheese and wine at the interval but no alcohol will be on sale, therefore BYO. Admission is free but you must have a ticket and they are available from Tom Burford or Peter Swann.

At the end of the evening there will be a collection for the Children of Darfur.

A celebration? PHS has become an OAP. Please help us to help the children.

Peter Swann

Read-a-verse

In this feature someone from our fellowship will share their best-loved or most precious verse from the Bible and tell us why. If you would like to contribute, please email a paragraph of explanation together with the verse to goodnews@lindfielddurc.org.uk

**Romans 8 v. 28
(Kings James Version)**

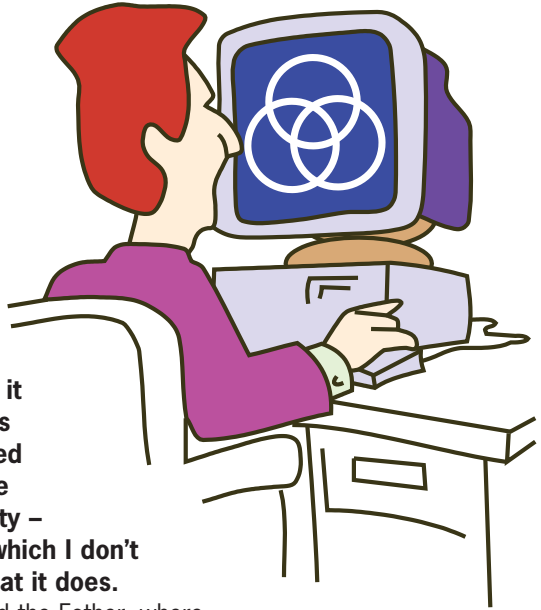
And we know
that all things work
together for good to
them that love God,
to them who are the
called according to
His purpose.

Many years ago when I was trying to cope with the trauma and pain of divorce and raising two boys as a one parent family, a wise and devout Christian friend came up behind me one day and said, "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God.... You may not see this now but your will one day".

We all have difficult times in our lives, times when we feel the storms will never pass, so I say to all those who are going through the mill at this time, hang on in there, remember the promises of the Lord and believe in him. I can truly say that when the dark clouds pass and the sun reappears again in your life, then you really appreciate it all the more.

Brenda Johnson

Trinity

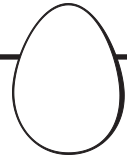


I've spent most of the day at my computer – again. How does it work? Well, I don't know fully, but I know that it does! Sometime during the hours I spent at the keyboard it occurred to me that the computer could be a useful analogy to the Holy Trinity – another system the workings of which I don't fully understand, but I can see that it does.

The tower (or box!) is a bit like God the Father, where everything is worked out. The monitor, which shows us exactly what the computer is doing, is a bit like God the Son, Jesus - the Word - a visible sign of what God is doing and is like, albeit we have to read that sign nowadays through the words of the Bible, somewhat like we read the “help” pages on the monitor. And then we have the keyboard, with which we communicate with the computer, acting a bit like the Holy Spirit who helps us to communicate with the Father and Son. Well, the analogy might not quite work for you, but just as the computer needs these three components, tower, monitor and keyboard to fully function, so God needs a Trinity to fully function, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Of course the big difference is that the heavenly Trinity is a lot more reliable than the worldly, computer trinity. For a start God never needs an upgrade because His message carries the same power, truth and relevance yesterday, today and tomorrow – God also never sends you spam, crashes or lets you down in other ways! Quite the reverse: Ecclesiastes 3 v 14, “I know that everything God does will endure FOR EVER”. So, as Psalm 136 v 1 says, “Give thanks to the Lord for he is good. His love endures FOR EVER”!

Martin Hall





An Easter Egg with a difference

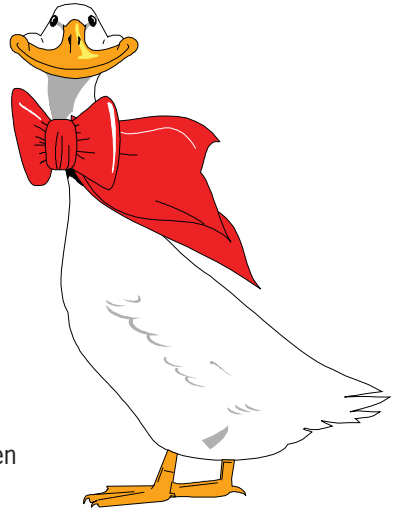
Tired of chocolate Easter eggs? Why not tackle a goose egg this year instead?

A goose lays just 20 eggs a year, and so a goose egg is a gourmet treat. Known in France as des oeufs d'oie, a goose egg is also a seasonal treat: geese only lay between spring and early summer.

If you intend to go to work on a goose egg this Easter - better leave yourself plenty of time. A goose egg can be three times as big as a chickens egg, roughly the size of a tennis ball, and can take between nine and 11 minutes to boil. It requires a regiment of toast soldiers to mop up the yolk.

But food gourmets say a goose egg is well worth the trouble - and the extra expense - (last year at Waitrose they cost about £2.50 each). Goose eggs are richer, creamier, and tastier - and big enough to share with a loved one. If you don't fancy one boiled, try serving it scrambled with truffles or smoked salmon.

Source: Parish Pump



Easter eggs galore

The UK has the second highest consumption per person of chocolate in Europe, with a market value of £4 billion. And we love our Easter Eggs! An estimated 80 million festive eggs will be sold this year, worth about £220 million.

Source: Parish Pump

Should we abolish the law of blasphemy?

The Evangelical Alliance has welcomed recent plans for a Government consultation on proposals to abolish the law relating to blasphemy.

However, the Alliance has called for the consultation to go beyond the Church of England. As a spokesman for the Evangelical Alliance explains, "Evidence shows that the UK is far from being a secular state.

"Religious belief continues to be a principal source of social values, and many people think that the law on blasphemy ... actually enshrines many of the values that help bind our society together and represents a valuable heritage which contributes significantly to our national identity.

"When Parliament prioritises the abolition of legislation it is not a neutral act. It sends out a signal to society about what values it considers to be important. In this case the message suggests that there is no longer a place for respect for the sacred in society. Even though it is widely accepted that the blasphemy laws are unlikely ever to be used again, their abolition should not consequently send out a signal that gratuitous abuse and offence are therefore now acceptable."

He continued: "We should be clear that we are not talking about restriction of free speech, the right to critique, caricature or parody religion. Nor does God need legal protection. We are talking about the reasonable prevention, for the good of society as a whole, of extreme gratuitous reviling and abuse - not of beliefs - but of people, and in particular sacred personalities in the form of religious leaders such as Jesus and Mohammed, who have special personal and relational sanctity for millions of believers.

"For this reason, and others, it is important that the Government consults with faith groups widely - not just with the Church of England - to explore how such very real concerns, which are manifestly not covered by parallel legislation on incitement to religious hatred, might be protected in relevant and effective up-to-date law. It is an opportunity for society to highlight the values that it considers important - including self-restraint and respect."

Source: Parish Pump



Political unrest in Kenya

Mission Aviation Fellowship has been busy in Kenya recently, rescuing a number of Christian relief workers. The workers, spread throughout the country and working for a number of aid agencies, became stranded following the current political crisis there.



One such 'air rescue' was to Eldoret in the west, where at least 30 people had died in a burning church. MAF brought back staff working for Empowering Lives International. One relief worker explained: "Tribal tensions were escalating... mums and children were piling into our training centre compound at night seeking refuge. Threats came to our director that our whole compound may be burned because we were caring for people regardless of their tribal affiliation."

On another flight, MAF took staff with Catholic Relief Services out to Eldoret, as well as much needed relief supplies. Another MAF flight rescued a number of Kenyans working with the relief agency Diguna in Tinderet - they were from a different tribe than the locals, and their lives were in considerable danger.

Despite all the chaos, MAF itself closed for only one day in Nairobi - when with all roads blocked and riots in the streets, it was too dangerous for the pilots to even reach the airport.

Source: Parish Pump

Celebr8

Our God, our Faith, our Family

Upd8!

The plans for our church weekend from 21st – 23rd November are in progress and we have already had a fantastic response. Bookings are still going strong and we would remind anyone who is still considering or had intended to sign up and hasn't yet – **BOOK NOW!** Forms are still available from the stewards at services or on the hymn book trolleys.

We hope and pray that the weekend will be a brilliant opportunity to learn more about God, ourselves and our church family. Many of those who went to Unite 2001 have great memories of making and developing friendships and of the time to reflect and have some time apart with God. In an extremely busy world such opportunities are precious and we will endeavour to offer a programme that allows for teaching, reflection, relaxation and fun as we *Celebr8* together!

We are having our first gift day on Sunday March 16th. Please pray and consider carefully what you believe God would have you give towards the weekend and make a gift on the gift day or at any time using the special *Celebr8* envelopes which are available in the church. All gifts towards the cost of the weekend are appreciated whether you are able to be there or not.

If you have any questions or suggestions about the weekend then please speak to any member of the *Celebr8* committee: Jeremy Campling, John Merrett, Marion Tingley, Mike Gardiner, Richard and Dawn Walters, Rosemary Davies, Steve Farley and Zoe McQuillin.

PILGRIM HALL

Church
Weekend
Away



Did Jesus rise bodily?

Must we be held to the crudeness of a literal resurrection of Jesus Christ? Is it not enough to describe the Easter event as a wonderful metaphor of the Christian hope?

Certainly there are books written by supposed academics that solemnly put forward such theories. But we only need ten minutes thought to realise that we are in dreamland if we think like that. Just think!

Here are twelve men whose world has come to an end. One of them is already dead - by his own hand. Another has himself publicly denied that he had ever met Jesus, and retires from the scene a broken man. Yet another takes the mother of the crucified leader, to look after her in his own home. It looks like an obvious end-of-story sequel. There is also a pessimist in the group - who had forecast disaster all along. (John 11:16).

It only takes the confusion of a night arrest to cause the twelve to disintegrate completely (Matthew 26:56). What caused them ever to come together again - to the extent that their enemies would describe them as 'these men who have turned the world upside down' (Acts 17:6) A metaphor? Beautiful picture language? Please! As well as the empty tomb, there are the changed disciples that have to be explained.

We hear from time to time of someone who has managed to come back from a death (or near-death) experience. Even to the extent of being nailed down in the coffin first! But how long does the excitement last? I can just remember such an event. A man

had 'died', and then made the come-back. The news item just squeezed into the BBC World at One news programme. I never saw it featured in any paper. And the man's name? I'd forgotten it within ten minutes. Presumably it will be on a gravestone one day.

If Jesus Christ had not clearly - and unequivocally - been raised bodily as the permanent conqueror of death on behalf of the human race, we would never have heard of him. The demoralised movement would have fizzled out on the launching pad. For a while, memories of a carpenter-healer would have persisted around Galilee; then 'The Jesus Event' would have ended up like The Theudas Event (Acts 5.36), washed over like a child's sand castle on the beach by the tides of history - until the three-year blip would be flattened out as though it had never been.

Look at 1 Corinthians 15:3-5, where, in a single unbroken sentence, Christ is the subject of four verbs: He died, was buried, was raised, and appeared. Implication: what was raised was what was buried.

Do the metaphor theorists think Jesus actually died? Yes, yes. Was buried? Sure. Was raised on the third day (always that insistence on 'the third day!') Er, no - that's metaphorical. Appeared? No, that's metaphorical too.

So within a single sentence, Paul can switch from factual language to metaphorical language? Please...!

Source: From 'The Top 100 Questions - biblical answers to popular questions' by Richard Bewes (Christian Focus) Source: Parish Pump.

Editor: Here is the third in our new 'back to basics' on the Christian faith. You may find this a helpful series to run for the benefit of those who are interested in Christianity, and who would like to know more... The Rev Paul Hardingham, rector of Bolton, considers the problem...

Christian Basics: Why the Cross?

The cross is the badge of the Christian. Yet it was the cruellest form of execution known in the ancient world until it was eventually banned in the 5th century AD. Paradoxically as a horrifying instrument of torture and death, it is also a symbol of love and peace.

The cross is a picture of violence, yet the key to peace;
a picture of suffering, yet the key to healing;
a picture of death, yet the key to life;
a picture of utter weakness, yet the key to power;
a picture of capital punishment, yet the key to mercy and forgiveness;
a picture of vicious hatred, yet the key to love;
a picture of supreme shame, yet the Christian's supreme boast.

The cross really is the key to everything!

Like a cut diamond the cross has many facets. On the cross the powers of death and evil were defeated; Jesus identified with our sufferings and set us an example of self-sacrificial love. However, above all, Jesus died to deal with the problem of our sin.

Peter writes, 'He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed ... Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God' (1Peter 2:24, 3:18). Jesus has made the way into God's presence open to all, symbolised when the curtain in the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom at the crucifixion. This veil representing the barrier between people and God was torn down by the death of Christ.

How did Jesus achieve this? He died in our place, bore our sins and took our guilt, so paying the full penalty for our sin. Again his final cry on the cross, *tetelesthai*, was a cry of triumph, 'It is finished'. It was the word stamped across bills to indicate that they had been paid.

What was the purpose of the cross? Peter answers this question in five short words: 'to bring us to God'. Jesus is like the bridge that provides access between us and God. 'If Jesus Christ is to be our Saviour then he must be able to place a hand upon a pardoning God and another hand on a penitent sinner and draw them together in an act of reconciliation' Bishop Handley Moule. Source: Parish Pump





Across

7 Larger, 8 Bishop, 10 Capital, 11 Naomi, 12 Eden, 13 Cross, 17 Obeys, 18 Pale, 22 Tread, 23 Antioch, 24 Nation, 25 Holier

Down

1 Blacken, 2 Dropped, 3 Death, 4 Lioness, 5 Shoot, 6 Spain, 9 Clergyman, 14 Abaddon, 15 Canonic, 16 Tethers, 19 Stand, 20 Deity, 21 Stool

Women's World Day of Prayer

The service this year is on Friday 7th March and will be held at Lindfield Evangelical Church at 1.30pm. The speaker will be Sarah Beeston. There will be crèche available and after the service refreshments will be served.

This meeting is open to all; men, women and young people. To each and all we extend a very warm welcome.

The service this year has been prepared by Christian Women in Guyana.

Just a Thought

Mike and I have really appreciated the excellent 'Feature' items. The writers have presented their thoughts clearly and well. We have found it helpful to read these items aloud, allowing time to really take in what the writer is conveying. Maybe these articles could be read out in the House Groups or on other occasions? A blessing awaits!

Jean Gardiner

FlowerRota



	Arranging	Distributing
March		
2	Vera Dorton	Kay Phillpot
9	Betty Billins	Jo Bloxham
16	Dorothy Forster	Heather Swann
23	Easter Flowers	Iris Bingham
<i>(Additional help would be appreciated, as we'll have Easter flowers to distribute. Thanks!)</i>		
30	Carol Marsh	Sue Tester
April		
6	Anne Parker	Jacqueline Wood
13	Carol Walters	Barbara Shepherd
20	Induction Weekend	Lesley Sparks
27	Barbara Shepherd	Margaret Gomme

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)
- 11.00am 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 10.00am Art Group
- 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
- 6:45pm Zest 4:5:6
- 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 (Years 7–10)

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:

Carol Walters 01444 457938

In Touch:

Sue Waller 01444 455047

Lunch Fellowship:

Wednesday:
Janet Drayton 01444 483621

Friday:

Gwen Hillman 01444 456963
Anne Parker 01444 473519

Magazine: Editor:

Val Cookney 01444 440029

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:

Jeremy Campling 01444 484140

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.

Lindfield Christian Care Home

Open Morning with Cake Sale

Saturday 8th March, 10.30am to noon

Compton House

THE PRESERVATION SOCIETY has a talk on

A.A.Milne by Christopher Rudd

Tuesday 18th March, 2.30pm

King Edward Hall

Admission £1. All Welcome.

Easter Pilgrimage Walk

Easter Monday 24th March

The Easter Monday Walk will be a 4-mile circular walk from Hurstpierpoint. It is a flat walk with no stiles!! There will be three stops for worship at a variety of venues, finishing early afternoon. More details from Barbara Shepherd. Please sign up on the list in the hallway if you would like to join us.

HOLY WEEK CONCERT

The Ashdown Singers

Singing 'Requiem', by G.F Fauré - And other items

Wednesday 19th March, 7.30pm

Lindfield United Reformed Church

The Ashdown Singers, under the direction of Terence Steele, are pleased to be singing again at Lindfield URC during Holy Week. Entrance is free of charge, but a retiring collection will be taken, the proceeds of which will be given to the local charity, Home Evangelism.

www.ashdownsingers.org.uk

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