

GoodNEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

APRIL 2008



WELCOME

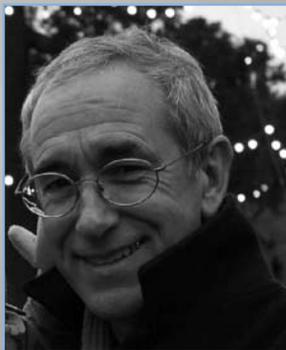
Charles
& Jenny



PLUS...

- Folk write about the joy of owning an allotment
- Ever wondered who looks after the runways at airports?
- Rosanne Horner reveals her plans as she flies off to South Africa





We spend a day with John Barling on page 12



South Africa beckons for Rosanne Horner on page 9

Dear Friends...



A big welcome

April will be an exciting month here at the United Reformed Church. We welcome Rev Charles Martin as our new minister. His induction will be here on Saturday April 19th at 3.00 p.m. and he will commence his ministry by taking the 9.30, 11.00 and 6.30 services on Sunday 20th to which all are very welcome.

Charles and Jenny, his wife, have both contributed to the magazine this month, so please look out for their article to find out who they are, and something about their calling to Lindfield.

2000 years ago the Easter story was followed by Jesus, having risen from the dead, commissioning his church and empowering it at Pentecost. We pray that we may see a similar outpouring of the Holy Spirit as we enter a new phase in the life of the church here.

There is a tendency to think that Easter has gone and to look towards Pentecost. It is, however, good to reflect that Jesus is alive today. To quote Paul Beasley-Murray from "The Message of the Resurrection," "– first and foremost we are Easter people. As Easter people we have an Easter Gospel, a gospel which means good news every week, and indeed every day of the year,".

David Jones, Joint Church Secretary

GoodNEWS

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

Editorial



As I write this the wind is blowing, it feels cold and the rain is lashing against the windows and it generally doesn't feel very spring-like or, more particularly, like gardening weather!! But we do have a lot on gardening this month; allotments, gardening tips and spring flowers. So if you are reading this and it is still raining, which it may well be, think positively, and plan ahead to what you may be able to do and enjoy sometime!!

Gardening Tips brings me onto an important announcement; that Carol and Stuart Marsh have joined the Editorial team. This is a re-run for them, as they informed me that they used to run the magazine a few years ago. We are delighted to have them on board.

It is good to hear from Charles and Jenny Martin to learn a little bit about them and their hopes and thoughts on their move here to Lindfield. I know that they have been particularly busy with the preparations to move so appreciate the time given to write for the magazine.

Do you know what John Barling does? Well, read on and you will know. It's fascinating stuff.

There are a number of thank you's in the Family news so please do take the time to look at those.

There's a lot more so whether we are under feet of water or having the hottest April since records began I hope you have a good read.

Val cookney

Prayer *FOCUS*



March 30th – April 5th

Pray for those involved in preparations for the Churches Tea Tent on Village Day, May 31st. That sufficient organisers/helpers may be found and that it will be a good time of fellowship between the three Churches as well as a significant witness to our village.

April 6th – 12th

Remember those from our Fellowship who are away at Spring Harvest in Minehead (5th – 10th). Pray for safe travel, good teaching, fun and refreshment in body, mind and spirit.

April 13th – 19th

Uphold Charles and Jenny Martin as they leave Buckinghamshire and move to Lindfield, in preparation for the Induction Service on April 19th and the commencement of Charles' Ministry amongst us.

April 20th – 30th

This month our Mission focus is Operation Mobilisation, and, in particular, Turning Point in London. Please pray for Simon and Becky Lunt and their team as they seek to bring Muslims to know the Lord Jesus.

PRAYER MATTERS

Yes, prayer certainly does matter and I'd encourage you to read the article on page 17 from the Outreach Group, encouraging us to consider becoming part of a Prayer Triplet or Partnership if we are not already in one. I too can recommend this source of mutual support and encouragement.. If you are interested but are not sure who to approach to join you, do put your name and phone number on a piece of paper and put it in the envelope on the new Prayer Board in the Concourse, and we'll do the rest.

With regard to our bright blue Prayer Board, we have had several suggestions for appropriate names, so we will probably use them all in turn, and thanks to those who took the trouble to consider a title and to produce the computer graphics. The prayer board is for everyday prayers and answers to prayer (rather than life-threatening situations that are in the Concourse Prayer Book). You may include your name if you wish, but if the prayer is for someone else, please obtain their permission before including their name. Please use this new facility. It is such an opportunity to share needs and to feel the support, knowing that your friends from the church are upholding you in prayer.

Charles & Jenny join us on the 19th April and by way of an introduction was asked them to write about their hopes and plans for the future.

A big welcome to Charles and Jenny

Charles

The brother I never knew was killed in a tragic accident when he was six years old in 1947. In 1948 I was born, quite literally, to replace him, but my mother did something a bit naughty. She tried to make a bargain with God. Like Hannah, Samuel's mother in the Old Testament, she told God that if He gave her another son, she would give him back, and all his life he would be at God's disposal.

On the whole, it's not a good idea to try to make bargains with God, but in this case, it seems to have worked, because I have never resented God's claim on my life. Indeed, I've always regarded it as a tremendous privilege. I have never seriously wanted to be anything else but a minister of the Gospel and very few people are able to spend their whole lives doing what they most want to do and make their living doing it! So, after school, theological college and a year trying to fill the shoes of a Probation Officer who was away at a training course, I was ordained on July 22nd 1972, at the tender age of twenty-four.

I met and married my wife Jenny soon afterwards and we have served together in the ministry at Purley, Hemel Hempstead, Brockworth in Gloucestershire, Orpington, Worthing, Hove and Beaconsfield. It's meant a great deal of moving around and this last move to Lindfield came as a great surprise, because I thought I would spend the last five years of my full-time ministry at Beaconsfield. However, God had other plans and here we are in Sussex again.

As I get older, one thing becomes more and more important to me and that is to find better and more effective ways of sharing the good news about Jesus. I want to show people what He has done and can still do to help them find life's true meaning and purpose. So,



if you ask me what my vision for the church is, I would answer that I want it to be a company of people who burn with love for each other and for Jesus and whose love and commitment is so infectious, that everyone in Lindfield will want to come and join them. I want to make the Gospel irresistible!

Some of you know me a little already, but the answers to the “pop” quiz questions might give a little more insight into my personality, so here goes:

Favourite book:

“Great Lives” – a century of obituaries published in the Times

Favourite game:

Rugby – long ago I played second row in the Scrum !

Three word description:

Cuddly and incurably optimistic

Relaxation:

Chess preferred to crosswords or Soduko (which is far too much like my maths homework).

The animal that sums me up:

Hamster – because it's small, be-whiskered and always looking for snacks.

Favourite music:

Classical and folk

Favourite meal:

Grilled bacon and cauliflower with cheese sauce

Jenny

Introducing your new minister's wife. My name is Jenny. For most of my life I have lived in a Manse as my father, Rev H M Watson was an evangelical Congregational Minister. At University I read Theology and then went on to become a Religious Knowledge teacher, firstly in the Latymer Grammar School in Edmonton and then in Moeding College, Botswana, on a short term missionary appointment with the Council for World Mission. On returning to the UK I became head of the Religious Knowledge Dept at Reigate Girl's County Grammar school and it was during this period of my life that I met and married Charles.

We moved to Hemel Hempstead where our two sons, Matthew and Philip, were born and when they began school I was faced with the question of whether to go back to teaching or to train for the ministry. As a young person, it had been my ambition to be a minister like my father, but had been encouraged to take up teaching instead. After much prayer and distinct guidance from God I decided to train for the non-stipendiary ministry. Both Charles and I felt that this was a good decision as it meant that we should both be tracking in the same direction.

When the boys left home to go to Oxford, I then did a little extra training and transferred to the stipendiary list and eventually took a



half-time appointment at Sompting URC on the outskirts of Worthing.

All my life, I have sought to work for God as enthusiastically as I know how and Charles and I have seen ourselves as a team in the ministry together. The minister who preached our wedding sermon said that up to that point God had Charles and Jenny to work with separately but now he would have Charles and Jenny to work with together and that was something totally different and new. We have modelled our ministry, in part, on that of two Salvation Army Officers, who, of course are a joint team together.

I am honoured, therefore, that God has seen fit to call us to work in yet another vineyard for the last five years of our official ministry and I shall do all in my power to make these years fruitful ones for the church in whatever way he leads. My gifts are at the churches' disposal to use or not as they see fit, as is such strength and energy as I have.

Here are my answers to the pop quiz:

Favourite books:

Terry Pratchett's Disc World, Brambly Hedge and Wind in the Willows

Favourite game:

I don't like any of them!

Three word description:

Conscientious, creative, loyal

Relaxation:

Walking in the country

The animal that sums me up:

Labrador (because it's gentle and tries to please)

Favourite music:

Classical

Favourite meal:

Fish (with the exception of salmon and shell fish – apart from prawns)

Charles and Jenny Martin

Operation Mobilisation Turning Point

Over the past three or four years we have supported Simon & Becky Lunt who are working with Operation Mobilisation Turning Point in London.

This month we are devoting our mission giving to this strategic ministry.

London is often described as the most cosmopolitan place on earth. It has also been called 'the political and economic centre of Islam in Europe and the Western world'. With 12 million people speaking more than 300 languages, London is certainly the most international city in the world.

Its strategic importance!

OM Turning Point has trained and helped thousands of people to share the love of God with Muslims, both in London and around the world. Throughout the history of this ministry, thousands have joined short-term outreach programmes in London and more than 500 people have completed one- and two-year training programmes. In partnership with others, OM Turning Point workers have established two bilingual churches.

Its uniqueness! For over 25 years OM Turning Point workers have shared

the Gospel with Muslims in London. Their training programme is recognised both within OM and among other mission agencies as ideal preparation for those hoping to serve right across the Muslim World.

Three-fold Ministry Plan:

- Short-term mission opportunities, church seminars & resources
- Training for long-term Muslim & cross-cultural contact
- Bi-lingual international church planting



Keep praying for:

- The on-going outreach and training programmes
- More skilled volunteers both in administration and for short term projects and year-long placements
- An increase in financial resources

More information about the ministry of OM Turning Point is on the missions display boards and table.

If you would like to give towards this work please use the special envelopes and place your gift in the offertory at any of the Sunday services. Please complete a Gift Aid Slip if appropriate.

South Africa beckons!



Janet & I met a young lady recently who came to our church a while back and was befriended by Priscilla Walden. Her name is Roseanne Horner. She now goes to All Saints and has a lovely testimony of how God has helped her through some of life's difficult experiences. She is off to South Africa in the near future (maybe will have gone before publication date) and has asked for our prayers. She writes as follows:

It's been nearly 18 months since I moved to Haywards Heath and started my job in Falmer. It really has become home and I shall be sad to say good-bye to so many friends and the gorgeous Sussex scenery(!) even if it is just for 6 months! But as it often is with life, the sadness of parting soon fades against the wonder and joy of new beginnings! I am excited about what lies ahead of me at the end of March.

South Africa beckons! ———

I am off to an Orphanage in South Africa called Tshepo Ya Bana (“Hope for Children” in the Setswana language). This small orphanage aims to provide a loving Christian family environment for unwanted or abandoned children. All children under three years of age are accepted regardless of state of health or background. As a volunteer I will be helping with childcare, general housekeeping and cooking.

Tshepo Ya Bana was formed early in 2003 by Mark and Christine Harding who emigrated with their family to South Africa from the United Kingdom during the early Seventies. Within a few years they began taking children in foster care.

Tshepo Ya Bana is in an area which consists of nearly 60 acres of mostly undeveloped bushveld, and is about to be incorporated into a “Big Five” game reserve, known as Dinokeng (Tswana for “Many Rivers”). It is situated some 10 km away from Hammanskraal, the nearest small town, and 50 km north of Pretoria.

I would really appreciate your prayers as I settle into a different culture and take on roles and responsibilities which will be new to me. Also please pray for safety, good health and that I may be a blessing to the children I will be caring for.

Rosanne Horner and Ron Goodenough

The hedgehogs are coming!

With Spring and increasing warmth of the sun, hedgehogs around the country are waking up from a long hibernation this month. They are in need of food and water as soon as they emerge, as they need to replenish lost fat reserves in time for the breeding season.

If you have hedgehogs in your garden, you can do a lot to help them. Offer them meat-based pet food and fresh water - and soon they will be repaying you by snacking on your slugs and snails. Please take care when tidying up the garden from winter mayhem - many hedgehogs suffer terrible injuries every year from strimmers, garden forks, etc.

For more info on helping these enchanting, prickly garden visitors, visit the British Hedgehog Preservation Society at:

www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk

Source: Parish Pump



Family News

Sad News

We send our love and sincere sympathy to **Stuart, Pamela** and **Clair Boyling** following the recent death of Stuart's father. Please, once again, hold this family in your prayers.

Pamela and Stuart want to say 'Thank you' for the lovely flowers that they received from the Church.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with **Ann** and **John Blake**, who had a large oak tree fall onto their bungalow in Harvest Close at the end of February. Praise God their lives were spared. They will be in temporary accommodation for quite a few months while their property is put to rights, and their address during that time will be:

11 Radnor Court, Harlands Road, Haywards Heath RH16 1LN.
Mobile 07788 758043.

Congratulations

Well done again to **Emma Nibloe!** Emma has recently been awarded a Distinction, two medals and a Cup at the Springboard Music Festival in Brighton.

Katie Cookney, one of our young folk, has just been accepted by BMS International to go to Delhi for six months later this year. She will probably be doing some work in schools, supporting work amongst women and helping in the church. More news will follow.

Thank you

We would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to all those at Lindfield URC for phone calls, cards, and letters and above all your prayers, which have comforted and sustained us since the loss of the "Kingpin" of our family – Paddy.

How good it was to welcome so many who came to the Thanksgiving Service at Gateway Baptist Church, Burgess Hill on 2nd Feb. – The joy of praising God for a life lived to its fullest – the B.B. memories, the rivalry still there between companies – and above all the humour that provoked such laughter amongst the congregation! – Who said Christians are dull?! – not even when we have to return one of our own to our Maker to be restored.

*With our Love,
We Remain in Christ's Service,
The Ley Family, Anne, Andrew,
Kathryn and Patrick*

Les and Elsie Anderson

would like to thank everyone for the flowers, the prayers and the support that has been offered on our behalf for the difficult days that lie ahead for us and our family. We thank the Lord that we are fortunate to be members of such a lovely congregation.

Bless you all.

John Barling

Every day is different, but some days are more different than others, if you get my drift.

After leaving a large company eight years ago and re-launching as my own boss I imagined that life could be a fairly predictable three day week, doing a little consultancy now and again to pay the bills, but the current skills shortage in airfield pavement engineering (that's runways, taxiway and aprons, or 'tarmac' to the rest of us) together with the insatiable demand for air travel have somehow dictated otherwise.

At home the day normally begins between 6 and half past with an invigorating English cuppa, putting the breakfast out and feeding the two feline lodgers. Firing up the PC after a 60 second, low carbon commute to the office downstairs, running virus scans and checking emails helps to get the mind into gear. Ding Dong! It's 7:30 and one of the two days each week when the grandchildren come for the

day whilst mum and dad go to work. Granny, of course, takes the lion's share of their care but the Principal Consultant frequently takes a short break from report writing and wrestling with the mathematics of multi-layer linear elastic theory to enter the imaginary and much more exciting world of children's play. It certainly helps to keep things in perspective. "Coffee?" "Oh, yes, please!"and the occasional outing to Tulley's Farm is never declined. Now the 'phone rings. A new client, perhaps? No, my elder





daughter's horse has colic. Must go and walk him around the school for a while to get the bowels moving (his, not mine), otherwise this could be serious. See, every day is different!

Playing away, on the other hand, might involve two or three nights in a hotel somewhere. A recent visit to Stockholm involved a long trek by car, rail, coach, plane and on foot through yet another unfamiliar city to appear in court as an 'expert witness'. Proceedings were conducted in Swedish through an interpreter. That particular day began at 5am and finished at almost 1am the next morning after my younger daughter provided the late night taxi service back from Heathrow. Engagements in the UK are a little kinder on the sleep pattern.

Night work, however, is something else. Occasionally (and usually in the middle of winter, accompanied by a radio toting driver who certainly

knows his Bravo from his Zulu, blindfolded) my airfield inspection work has to be done whilst most of the nation sleeps. After all, who would want to be stuck in a terminal at some airport en route to Madeira or the USA, with hundreds of flights delayed, whilst some anorak in a yellow coat walks down the runway with camera and clipboard looking for cracks and bumps?

Whilst waiting for my evening flight many thoughts buzz around my head, about home, family, friends, work and what next, so I find that listening to talks from Holy Trinity Brompton (birthplace of the Alpha courses) on my iPod or trying to learn the words for a new 'swing' song like "I Love Paris", to be sung with the Perdido Players at the village hall (yikes, in 3 days time!), are a welcome diversion.... but that's for another day.

John Barling

April church diary

5th

Saturday 8.45 – Prayer Meeting
9.30am at URC

GROUP TO SPRING HARVEST

6th

Sunday 9.30am Derek Heath-
Communion
11.00am Derek Heath
6.30pm No evening service

11th

Friday

12th

Saturday 8.45 – Prayer Meeting
9.30am at URC

13th

Sunday 9.30am Ron Goodenough
11.00am Ron Goodenough
6.30am Communion
in the Round
– David Jones

17th

Thursday House Groups

16th

Wednesday 12.30pm Lunch Fellowship

18th

Friday 12.30pm Lunch Fellowship
In Touch at Wivelsfield
Theatre

19th

Saturday 8.45 – Prayer Meeting
9.30am at URC
3.00pm **Induction of
Charles Martin**

20th

Sunday 9.30am Charles Martin
11.00am Charles Martin
6.30pm Charles Martin

23rd

Wednesday 2.45pm Afternoon
Fellowship
7.30pm Elders

26th

Saturday 8.45 – Prayer Meeting
9.30am at URC

27th

Sunday 9.30am Charles Martin
11.00am Charles Martin
& Communion
6.30pm Charles Martin

**OTHER LOCAL EVENTS
LISTED ON BACK COVER**

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:-

April 6th	Glynn Philips
April 13th	Philip Wren
April 20th	Michael Davies – COMMUNION SERVICE
April 27th	Philip Wren

FlowerRota



Arranging

Distributing

April

6 Anne Parker	Jacqueline Wood
13 Carol Walters	Barbara Shepherd
20 Induction Weekend	Lesley Sparks
27 Barbara Shepherd	Margaret Gomme

May

4 Boys Brigade	Kay Phillpot
11 Fiona Tingley	Jo Bloxham
18 Jean Baxter	Iris Bingham
25 Audrey McKee	Heather Swann

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 this month is on **Wednesday 23rd April at 2:45pm**. As this is St. George's Day we want to celebrate our National Saint's Day, so bring along a flag if you have one, or any patriotic item. This is also our Charity Tea so come along and spend a jolly time together. There will also be our Bring and Buy Stall.

Mothering Sunday

Thank you to all who made the delightfully decorated wee baskets, for the "Heroes" contained and the T bag – such an uplifting encouragement to all who received and a token of our loving church family

A Mum

In Touch

Please note that there is a change to the usual week for our meeting in April.

We have booked 25 tickets for **"The Darling Buds of May"** at the **Wivelsfield Village Hall** on **Friday, April 18th**. Please ask Lesley Sparks for tickets at £6 each, (with the cash). I can recommend the production there, having seen excellent ones in the past.

Barbara Shepherd.

Seasonal Gardening Tips

Ready Steady Grow...

Spring has arrived once again a little earlier than in previous years.

Five Topical tips to get things growing;
Spread and dig in compost over borders to encourage early growth.

Buy pre-germinated plug or starter plants from a garden centre not through the post. They are a real bargain at 24 for £2.99. Plant one per 9cm –pot and keep them frost-free.

Sow hardy vegetable seeds such as broad beans and brassicas outside.

Sow non-hardy vegetables such as tomatoes to bring on in a frost-free environment.

Flowering has finished and then feed as they die down. Don't be too impatient to cut down the leaves of daffodils; allow six weeks after flowering has finished.

Happy gardening!

Flower Lady

To me, seeing the spring flowers appearing is an absolute joy. I just adore flowers and I think they are lovely to receive when ill or feeling low because the cheer you up.

Delivering church flowers to the sick or needy is a very worthwhile thing to do because I know I am bringing cheer to that home and the assurance to that person of our love and prayers.

Jacqueline Wood

Prayer triplets with Hope 08



Hope 08 gives us the incentive to reach out to each other within our church and within our local community to share the Lord's love. The Outreach Group met recently and discussed some things we would like LURC to do under the Hope 08 banner. Each month we shall concentrate on a particular item or event as well as getting involved in other spontaneous opportunities as they arise.

Our provisional programme is as follows:

March	Men's Breakfast	September	Alpha/Christianity Explored
April	Prayer Triplets	October	Plant a Field
May	Village Day	November	Fireworks Night
June	Fellowship	December	Christmas
July/August	Family Fun Day		

Of course, some of these happen every year but we would like to give them to God and ask Him to help us to see them afresh and use them for his purposes. A Hope 08 notice board is being prepared and more details will be given on each of the above in due course but I would like to share my thoughts on April's item.

Prayer Triplets

Have you every thought about being in a prayer triplet?

Prayer invites God into the centre of our lives. It gives Him what is rightfully his – our praise and thanksgiving. Below are some verses regarding prayer; they are well known but they are God's promises to each of us.

For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.
Matthew 18 v 20

I tell you that if you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. Matthew 18 v 19

Cast all your anxiety on him because He cares for you. 1 Peter 5 v 7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Philipians 4 v 6

As well as claiming these promises as your own, you also give and receive

encouragement. I meet with my prayer partner each month and we chat about our concerns and then bring them to God. Meeting in a prayer triplet is an ideal opportunity to pray for our World, Church, Community and friends who we long to know Jesus themselves. We keep a prayer diary and are encouraged to see how God has worked in the situations. We thank him for all His blessings and trust him for our future.

I would encourage you to think about forming a prayer triplet – you won't regret it!

If you would like to join a prayer triplet please place your name in the envelope on the prayer board in the concourse and I will be in touch!

Lydia Goodchild

Allotments

A number of folk in the church have allotments and so we have ask them to tell us something about having an allotment. Others aspire to having one, one day, and we ask them why too!

Why do I have An Allotment?

From a practical point of view, there is the growing of seasonal vegetables and fruit. There is simply **nothing** like the taste of fresh produce untainted by dangerous chemicals. You know where it's been and how it's been grown; when it comes from the supermarket, you don't.

It's not expended any food miles and you feel more involved when you do the growing in partnership with God. There's as sense of stillness when you put down the spade and fork and look around – how great our God is. The closer you stay to the earth, the more you can appreciate his all-year-round bounty.

Stuart Marsh

Allotment Gardening

Allotments are a well established institution and hopefully will be preserved for future generations. The probable secret of cultivating an allotment is a little and often rather than an annual blitz. It is an eleven and half month activity. The benefits of a friendly chat and exchange of ideas is all part of the allotment society as is the resident wild life of foxes, robins, blackbirds and the occasional field mouse.

One must not be too discouraged by the adverse climate, whether it is a late frost to decimate the early potatoes or a summer gale to flatten the runner beans.

Allotmenting can be therapeutic and spiritually rewarding.

Paul Porter

What does my allotment do for me?

Believe it or not, it always clears a persistent stiffness and backache that I get every year by the end of the winter. As soon as I start digging in the spring - - it is gone until the next winter!

I have the smallest allotment on my site – one quarter of an allotment, (dolls house size).

But on that I grow lovely Raspberries and Blackberries that feed me, (by freezing), throughout the year. I also grow salad produce all through the summer, plus Corn, Runner and Broad Beans, and garlic. Plus any other seeds that take my fancy.



My love of my allotment is difficult to define.

I like to be outside.

I like to grow things, with childlike amazement.

I have companionship and chat while I garden - a real advantage if you live alone.

And lastly, of course, *the wonderful organic produce* (weather permitting).

Joan Bailey

“The Allotment Book – A practical guide to creating and enjoying your own perfect plot” by Andi Clevely with a foreword by Jekka McVicar

published by C Collins

I do not have an allotment – I just aspire to one day organise a small corner of the garden into some sort of recognisable vegetable plot! However, I found this wonderful book recently so have no more excuses not to press ahead.

Kim Wilde is quoted on the book cover as saying “On your first visit to the allotment site, if you take with you only two things, let them be a packet of seeds and this book” and I think she may well be right.

The book is set out with clear text and beautiful illustrations. It is practical as well as thoughtful with some delicious recipes as well as heart-warming stories. The Introduction asks the reader to “Pause for a while as you walk around your allotment, and reflect. All land has a hidden history and, unless the site is very new, you will be treading in the footsteps of previous tenants, possibly going back for generations.” The page entitled “Food for the Soul” tells the reader about “The Garden Gate” which is an organic community garden run by the mental health charity Thanet Mind.

I don't think I'll give too much else away ... it really is a book full of lovely surprises.

Helen Hall

Skydiving on 17th May? It's a Picnic!

How would you fancy jumping out of an aeroplane at 10,000 feet – strapped to an instructor, of course, to raise awareness and money for a local charity? No, don't worry or reach for your diary in the hope that you already have an appointment that day – we're not asking you to skydive, although some brave ones actually do!

Why not join other Sussex folk in a sponsored walk or cycle ride on 17th May and then meet up for a church picnic at Bramber Castle, all in support of Sussex's only children's hospice, Chestnut Tree House, in Arundel. If you are unable to do the walk or ride, or have no transport, but would love to come on a picnic anyway, ask someone with a spare seat to take you (and just make a donation to Chestnut Tree).

For the third year running this successful event, the Downs Link Challenge invites individuals, families and groups to choose to cycle between 5 - 30 miles or walk between 5 - 10 miles to raise money for Chestnut Tree House. The event, organised by Shoreham College Parents' Association has marshalling points and refreshments along the way. For more details please visit www.downslinkchallenge.co.uk or write to

Downs Link Challenge, c/o Shoreham College, St. Julian's Lane, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, BN43 6YW. Entry fee prior to 3rd May is £8, or £25 for a family group (under 5s free); thereafter £15 per person.

Chestnut Tree House, completed in 2003, is the only children's hospice in Sussex and cares for children and young adults from all over the county from 0-19 years of age with progressive life-limiting and life-threatening illnesses. Costing approximately £2 million per year to run and receiving no government funding, the hospice is currently running at half its capacity. At present, only 4 beds plus 1 emergency bed are in operation and, although the hospice would like to open its full quota of 8 beds plus 2 emergency beds, the funding is simply not in place to do so.

There are potentially 400 families with life-limited children in Sussex. Chestnut Tree House offers support for the whole family including psychological support, care in bereavement therapy, end of life and respite care and sibling support.

Want to know more? Speak to John Barling or Ray Smith.

John Barling

Celebr8 Upd8!

First and foremost, thank YOU to everyone who has contributed financially so far in preparation for our church weekend away in November, particularly on our first gift day in March. We plan to have another gift day as an opportunity to give specifically for Celebr8 later in the year.

We are **pleased** to announce that we have recently been able to confirm a youth team for the weekend who will be providing the activities for those under 14 years. They are coming from St Stephens in Tonbridge and are looking forward to a great time of learning and fun with us. Currently we have 17 children booked for the weekend so book now if you want to be part of the action!

We hope that you are all looking forward to the time away as we are and would continue to welcome any comments or suggestions on how we can make the most of our time together. *Please speak to any member of the Celebr8 committee : Jeremy Campling, John Merrett, Marion Tingley, Mike Gardiner, Richard & Dawn Walters, Rosemary Davies, Steve Farley or Zoe McQuillin.*



PILGRIM HALL



Recipes

Whilst this is not an original idea, we thought it would be fun to have a short period when we asked anyone to write in with their favourite recipe. So to start us off here is a recipe for a starter from Carol Marsh.

Smoked Mackerel and Watercress Mousse

Serves: 4

Ingredients:

1 small bunch of watercress
175g (6oz) smoked mackerel fillet, skinned
125g (4oz) low-fat soft cheese
60ml (4tbsp) low-fat natural yogurt
30ml (2tbsp) lemon juice
15ml (1 level tbsp) creamed horseradish
Black pepper
1 egg white
Brown bread and lemon wedges to serve

Method:

Rinse the watercress in cold water and drain. Discard any coarse stalks, reserve a few sprigs for garnish, and place the remaining watercress in a food processor.

Add the mackerel to the processor with the cheese, yogurt, lemon juice, horseradish and plenty of black pepper. Blend until quite smooth.

Whisk the egg white until stiff but not dry. Fold in the mackerel mixture and spoon into four ramekin dishes. Cover and freeze for 10-15 minutes only – just long enough for the mixture to firm up slightly or, if time allows, chill in the refrigerator for 2 hours.

Garnish with watercress sprigs and serve with thin slices of brown bread and wedges of lemon.

Not suitable for freezing.
Carol Marsh



The Rev Paul Hardingham, rector of Bolton, considers the problem...

Christian Basics: What about the Resurrection?

What if Jesus had not risen from the dead? Despite having his example and teaching, the bottom would drop out of Christianity and four things would remain true:

- As Paul says, 'if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins'. (1 Corinthians 15:17).
- We have no hope of being raised either, and must expect to stay dead as well.
- Christ is not reigning in heaven and will not return to bring history to its fulfilment and so we cannot call him Lord.
- We cannot have a relationship with the living Lord, who is identical with the Jesus of the gospels. Although this Jesus might be our hero, he cannot be our Saviour.

So how should we understand the significance of Jesus' resurrection for us today? Here are some key points to consider:

- It affirms that Jesus' death on the cross was not a defeat but a victory over sin, death and Satan, 'But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him' (Acts 2:24).
- It confirms Jesus' identity as Son of God, 'who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God

by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord' (Romans 1:4).

- It points to our own bodily resurrection, rather than the immortality of our soul, 'The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable' (1 Corinthians 15: 42).
- It guarantees our forgiveness, 'if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins' (1 Corinthians 15:17).
- It ensures that we can know the reality of his risen life today, 'just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life' (Romans 6:4).

The story is told of Russia under the communist regime. A member of the communist party addressed a packed audience at length, seeking to discredit the resurrection of Christ. At the end an Orthodox priest rose and asked if he might reply. He was warned that he was only allowed five minutes. 'Five seconds is all that I require!' he said firmly.

He turned to the audience and gave the traditional Easter greeting: 'Christ is risen!' Back with a deafening roar came the traditional reply: 'He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!'

Source: Parish Pump

Many Thanks! _____

Angel Tree, Christmas 2007 Many Thanks

Angel Tree is the Prison Fellowship programme which provides presents to children whose parents are in prison at Christmas. The prisoner requests that a present is provided, says what sort of present it should be and writes a greeting to be included with the present. The requests are passed on by prison chaplains to Prison Fellowship whose volunteers buy, wrap and deliver the presents.

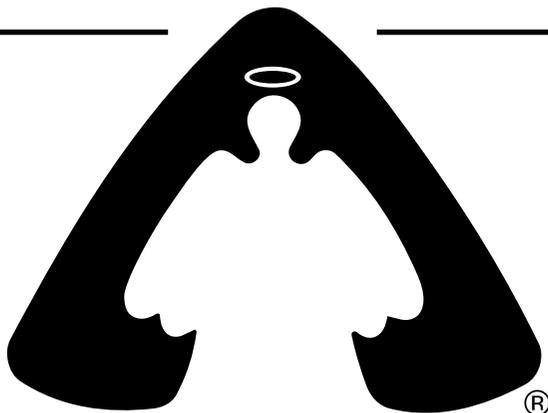
This last Christmas Lindfield URC raised a total of £330 towards Angel Tree at HMP Lewes, through individual gifts, a collection at the Church Away Day and part of the retiring collection at the Christmas Carol Concert.

Nigel and Valerie Maynard, who lead the local Prison Fellowship Group, have written a letter of thanks to Angel Tree contributors. Here is an extract;

“Thank you so much for helping the Angel Tree 2007 project to be such a success. This is the first time we have attempted to carry out this event at HMP Lewes. We have raised over £1.300 with your help. Sixty-six children received presents from their fathers this Christmas. Half were delivered by hand and the rest by courier.

One family we delivered to kept repeating; “we cannot believe this has happened to us”. The father came to chapel on Sunday morning with tears in his eyes and could not say thank you enough.

We usually rang to say we were coming to deliver a present from the fathers. Often the children would be peering out of the window waiting to see us and often running to the door to collect their



ANGEL TREE®

A Ministry of Prison Fellowship

present. One little girl wanted a photograph of herself to send to her daddy. The grandmother of another little boy could not stop thanking us.

In one flat the mother opened the door and took the presents. The children asked who was at the door and the mother replied; "Father Christmas has come."

On the Sunday morning Chapel, four fathers shook our hands with big smiles on their faces. They were so happy that they were able to give a present and message to each of their children. We understand that there has been much joy during telephone conversations.

In one case where Social Services had to deliver the present they have now arranged for the father to see his small child.

Thank you so much for you help, you brought so much pleasure to these children."

Joan Bailey and Mary Comber

HOPE 2008

in our villages, towns & cities

Report:

Men's breakfast

Saturday 8th March

An excellent 'full English breakfast' in a local cafe, friendly banter and then John Goodway's 'powerful' personal testimony – what better way can there be to spend the first couple of hours of the weekend?

Some 20 men, of which about a third were guests, were clearly of a similar view. The Saltworkz cafe did us proud with the lay out, atmosphere, food etc, and few can fail to be moved by John Goodway's life-story of having an over-strict/unloving father, working in horticulture, then a disc jockey (with unsocial yet short-ish work hours with much attention from numerous 'ladies'), getting married and moving back to horticulture, then increasing their income as a milkman; despair as his wife contracts/dies of cancer followed by loneliness and depression leading to suicide attempts, the third of which is 'foiled' by The Book (given to John as well as a monetary bonus at Christmas) when it falls open in Ephesians and the words 'there is nothing you can do to make me love you more' 'spring' off the page at John.

Seeking, finding and inviting God into his life, as well as the lass who gave him the Bible (who is now John's second wife). Further time in horticulture, until he heard God's calling into full-time evangelism, where he has been for the last 7 years. What a journey! and its still ongoing...

John is following-up with some of the 'guests'; please join me in praying for John and for those he continues to talk to both from the breakfast and as he goes 'door-to-door' in our village.

Ray Smith

HOPE 2008

in our villages, towns & cities

Lindfield Village Spring Clean (half) Day

Saturday 5th April

We have been liaising with the Parish Council to ascertain how we, Lindfield URC, can be more involved in the life of the village. The suggestion received so far relates to helping 'clean-up' Lindfield on Saturday 5th April (which 'sadly' is when many will be en-route to Spring Harvest at Minehead).

Help is needed with several activities, and will start at 09.30 a.m. at King Edward Hall where accessories and instructions will be handed out. The 'day' ends at 1.00 pm when thanks, soup, rolls and drinks are given to all helpers. Please put this date in your diaries and just 'turn up' appropriately attired.

Many thanks, Ray Smith

What are you doing with your food?

How much food do you buy - and then throw away? According to recent research, it is a staggering third of all you buy. Nationally, that means £8 billion-worth of food a year. That comes to about 6.7million tons - imagine filling Wembley Stadium eight times over.

The Government-funded Waste and Resources Action Programme (Wrap) estimates that if households could cut

out such waste, 15 million tons of carbon dioxide a year would be averted - the same as if we took one in five cars off the road.

It seems we let too much food go off in the fridge and cupboard, and also cook more than we need or can eat - and then throw it away.

Source: Parish Pump

Woman general secretary for United Reformed Church

The United Reformed Church has appointed the Revd Roberta Rominger as its general secretary. She is the first woman to hold the post in the Church, or in any of its predecessor denominations.

Roberta Rominger said “I am passionate about the vision of a Church that is enthusiastically engaged with the world. I believe God speaks and acts in the world today. The Church’s life should reflect this God, who is committed to hope, justice and human flourishing.

“Among the members of the United Reformed Church, are many creative, inspiring and intellectually and spiritually alive people. It is a privilege to be called to lead them”.

Roberta Rominger trained for ministry in the USA, and was ordained in California, in the United Church of Christ. She came to Britain in 1985 and has been a minister in the United Reformed Church ever since, serving as Moderator of the Thames North Synod for the past ten years.

She will take up the post in July. She replaces the Revd Dr David Cornick, who is to become general secretary of Churches Together in England, an appointment that reflects the United Reformed Church commitment to ecumenism.

Roberta Rominger is also an accomplished cellist, with a special love of chamber music.

Congregationalists, Presbyterians and members of the Churches of Christ have come together in a series of unions since 1972, to form the United Reformed Church. None ever had a woman as its general secretary or most senior staff member, although the Congregational Union of England and Wales was the first mainstream denomination in Britain to ordain a woman, as long ago as 1917.

Source: Press Release from URC.

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

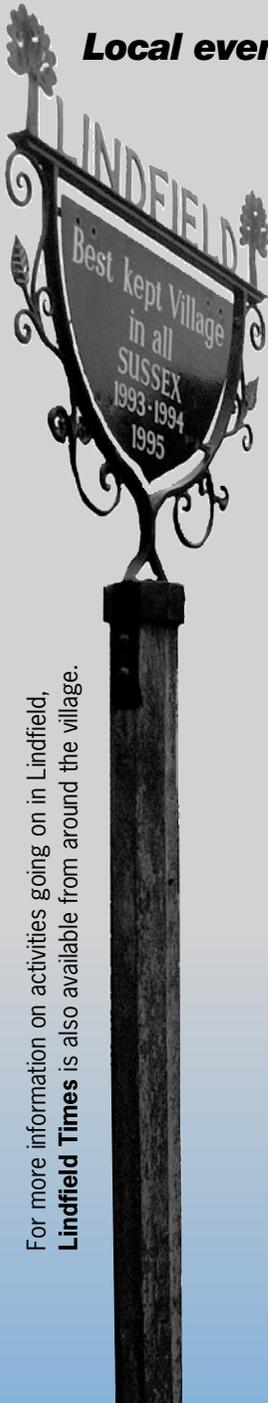
Zest Co-ordinator:

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 PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting
with a presentation by Streetmate

Wednesday 16th April

8pm, King Edward Hall, Lindfield

ARDINGLY CHORAL SOCIETY SPRING CONCERT

Brahms' 'Requiem'

Sunday 6th April

7.30pm, The Chapel, Ardingly College

Tickets £12 (conc £10) available from
Carousel Music 01444 417654
& Mrs Ventham 01273 831264.

It is in the KEH events list page 3.