

*Good*NEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

★ DECEMBER 2008 ★

A very
Happy
Christmas
to all!



PLUS...

- Read about what some people thought of Celebr8
- Stuart Marsh on looking after our Christmas trees!
- Supplement of Christmas Greetings

FREE
PLEASE HELP YOURSELF



ence

Dear Friends...



Have you ever been completely in the dark? It's very frightening. People who are totally blind know it only too well, but most sighted folk rarely experience it. The only time I can remember being totally in the dark myself, was years ago when I was responsible for the congregation of a tiny chapel in Herefordshire. It was built on the side of a hill, close to the River Wye. I had stayed behind after everyone else had gone home, following a Church Meeting and when I finally turned all the lights off and left the chapel, I was, quite literally, in total darkness.

I can remember standing, facing the steep path down the hill. I knew that before I reached my car, some way below me, I would have to find my way through the headstones of the grave-yard. I was not looking forward to measuring my length amidst the "rude forefathers of the hamlet" and I literally could not see a thing.

There's a lot of darkness around at the moment. The economic downturn will make Christmas hard for some people, especially if it results in losing their home. Can you imagine what that would feel like - losing your home close to Christmas? The very thought makes me shudder and yet re-possessionings are rising all the time. To be in debt with no hope of paying your way out of it is an appalling prospect, but all the same, many folk will "hit the plastic" in the weeks before Christmas. Another source of darkness is family break-down

and the resultant antagonism when separated parents disagree over where the children will spend Christmas Day.

Maybe the worst kind of darkness is to be alone at this time of the year, when everyone else is celebrating in the midst of loving families. Let me say this: if anyone has nowhere to spend Christmas Day, there is a welcome at Ryecroft. Over the years it's been one of the highlights of the festive season for us to open our home, so no one who reads this need be on their own this Christmas. Just let us know if you would like to come and share it with us and you would be more than welcome.

But Christmas is not about darkness. It's about light ! It's about a time when, as the Gospel of John says "In Him (that is in Jesus) was life and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it." No one need be in the dark when the light of Christ is shining. The fact that God's love in sending His Son doesn't make sense to people without faith, doesn't invalidate it or mean that the Gospel isn't true. In spite of the concentrated efforts of two thousand years to extinguish the light, it still goes on shining and not all the combined forces of darkness can put it out, so let's share it with everyone we can !

With love to you this Christmas,
your friend and pastor,
Charles Martin



GoodNEWS

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Editorial



First and foremost on the behalf of the Editorial team we would like to say a very BIG thank you to all who have given their time and contributed to the magazine over the past year. The magazine would not be the same without your input so thank you.

Secondly an apology to Dan and Stuart for putting Stuart's name under the article on the Credit Crunch, it should have been Dan!

As you are award the, magazine is a little late but I do believe it is worthwhile as we are able to have comments on the Church weekend. So thank you for being patient.

Finally may we, the editorial team, take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

Val



GoodNEWS Online

Don't forget that you can view this and past editions of GoodNEWS at the Lindfield URC website:

www.lindfieldurc.org.uk



Prayer **FOCUS**



I love Christmas. It is my favourite time of year. I find it really easy to pray during the Christmas period, as the elements of the Christmas story are great at reminding me to pray about certain things. I hope you will find it useful as you think towards Christmas.

Mary & Joseph – Mary & Joseph were ordinary people like you and me, chosen by God to do his work. Thank God for all that he has done in your life, for the blessings that he has given you, as you have walked with him. Ask God to help you trust him, so that he can continue to work in your life.



The Innkeeper – The Innkeeper was busy. Pray for those who will be working over Christmas. People who work shifts and may only spend a fraction of Christmas day with their families. Ask God to keep them safe.

Shepherds – Shepherds were alone out on the fields. We pray for those that are homeless or have no families to spend Christmas with. Lift up the charities such as Crisis at Christmas who put on special events to help these people.



King Herod & the Three Wise men – King Herod & the Wise men were men of wisdom and authority. Let us pray for our Queen and government. We ask that God works through them to show his glory. We especially think of those in positions of authority who are Christians. We ask that God will continue to work in their lives.



The Star – The star was a guiding light. Pray that God will use you as a guiding light to others. “You are the light of the world....Don’t hide your light under a basket! Instead put it on a stand and let it shine for all.” Matthew 5:14-15.



Jesus – Jesus was the baby, the hero of our story. Jesus went on to die on the cross for our sins. Jesus loved us whoever we are, regardless of what we did. He would always be there for us. Read Psalm 103, and then pray.



I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Zoe McQuillin



Church Weekend Away

Thank you for a wonderful weekend. Fellowship, learning, relaxing, fun, excellent food and well looked after. Thank you to those who have worked so hard to make the time together a success. The next one...

A Pilgrim Hall Birthday!

Saturday morning bacon for breakfast... Wow! It must be my birthday!

Great worship and teaching, things that were fuzzy made clear... it must be my birthday!

Lunch and fellowship, so much to learn about my Church Family... it must be my birthday!

Free time, a bookshop on the doorstep... it must be my birthday!

A walk in the setting sun, hand in hand with my best friend, my wife... it must be my birthday!

An evening at the theatre, music, singing and a wry dry panto... it must be my birthday!

Then Sunday morning, Heather pressing cake into my hand... hang on ... Yes it was my birthday, what a birthday!

Later, to be anointed with oil for Jesus... not just a birthday but now a re-birthday!

Thanks be to God!

Martin Hall

I want to say a very big "thank you" for this weekend. What a delightful time of sharing – in faith, fellowship, friendship and laughter. A time I shall always remember and look back on with joy.

Pat P

This has been a really fulfilling weekend of worship and praise to God and unity in the Church.

Jane, Alex, Johanna, Kieran, Barbra and Gina

This weekend has shown us God's gifts of Leadership, Fun and Fellowship within our church. Thank you Mike for your vision for this weekend and for Zoe, Marion, Richard, Dawn, Jeremy, Rosemary & John, for all you have done for giving us such a super weekend in every way.

Betty & Roy

(Saturday evening) This is the very best church conference I have ever been to and I've had



Celebr8

Our God, our Faith, our Family

plenty of experience! There's a sense of expectancy and anticipation and that means God is going to do wonderful things!

(Sunday afternoon) He certainly did do wonderful things. Praise God for a fresh outpouring of His Holy Spirit!

Charles Martin

How often on a Sunday does one first say "Hello" or "Good-bye" to another, perhaps ask "How are you?" and go on your way? How often do you say "I must try and speak to x; haven't spoken for weeks"? So, how nice it was to have just two days when we were not rushed, did not have to get home to put the lunch on, or see others on "business" matters. We had time to chat, not just to our regulars but also to many to whom we rarely (if ever) speak, get to know and appreciate each other better. It was also lovely that this occurred over a wide age range, doing some things together and enjoying each others' company. What a great weekend.

Hilary Shepherd

"I think it was very good but the heating was on too high!"

– Freya (aged 6)

"I really liked my group, being themed as pirates was great fun"

– Joe (aged 9)

"A great weekend away in beautiful surroundings. Space to learn, worship, pray and space to just 'be'. Thank you to the team for thinking of everything and looking after us so well. I especially liked the food"

– David (aged 37)

One evening some of us were playing "What's In The Bag/Who's In The Bag?" and as Alex Jacob did not have his glasses with him he borrowed Charles' pair. He made the comment that he could see better with the borrowed pair!

For me this moment of fun linked in beautifully with Alex presenting us with the opportunity to consider well known bible passages with "new spiritual glasses".

Jesus and the disciples attended the wedding in Cana



together - the disciples wanted to be where Jesus was, not just because of what he said but because of how he lived his life. Unlike us, Jesus is not a mass of contradictions but lived on earth, a life in harmony with His beliefs. When Mary mentioned to Jesus that the supply of wine had run out Jesus did far more than she imagined he would do. He can do this in every aspect of our lives too.

Alex spoke of the clearing of the temple and related this to how it is possible that the church model with which we are comfortable may block others in their relationship to God. The point was made that church belongs to those who do not belong.

In the story of the Samaritan woman Alex highlighted the paradox that Jesus, the source of life-giving water, asked for a drink making himself vulnerable to the woman. As we share Jesus' love we need to be prepared to make ourselves vulnerable to others.

By comparing and contrasting this encounter by the well with Jesus' meeting with Nicodemus, Alex emphasised the extreme differences between the two individuals. The point was that the gospel is for everyone. For us to provide a welcome to all, we need the Holy Spirit to live and do His work in us.

God spoke through Alex to my heart! The challenge now is to take words written in a notebook and ask God to show how they apply to me so I can reach out to those that do not know Jesus' love for themselves.

– Lydia (older than the rest of the Goodchildren)

Attendances:

82 adults (inc 5 speaker/children's team) and 17 children aged 1-15 participated in the whole weekend, with 22 adults (inc 1 children's leader) and 2 children attending for part.

Just wanted to say how much Ray and I enjoyed the weekend at Pilgrim Hall. A big thank you to all who worked so hard behind





the scenes for many months to put all those caring little touches into the weekend - when you were shown to your room the welcome card on your bed personally addressed together with the Celebration chocolates. The weekend programme was relaxed and well thought out - no having to keep one's eye on the clock so you didn't miss the next meeting, enough time between activities to chat to others or get a breath of fresh air.

The Christmas wreath making on Saturday afternoon was great. A big thank you to Zoe for arranging this and purchasing all the necessary 'bits and pieces'. The teaching from the Rev. Alex Jacob was good - one can always learn something new from even well-known Bible passages, while the final session on Sunday morning and the afternoon Communion Service were particularly meaningful. Saturday evening - well, one could say so much. Who says Christians are killjoys and don't enjoy themselves. It was all

good clean wholesome fun with plenty of laughter.

In spite of the weather being cold (well it is November) Pilgrim Hall was beautifully warm with plenty of hot water and excellent meals. The Sunday morning prayer meeting before breakfast was well attended with all the chairs occupied, so much so that some had to sit on the floor. Ray was stretched out on the floor on his back praying earnestly from the heart when all of a sudden the fire alarm went off. We all filed down the stairs and out to the garden (it was snowing!) stepping over Ray who continued to pray, unaware that it was for real! He did come when he realised! A few minutes later we heard it was a false alarm - the steam from a shower on the top floor had set the fire alarm off!

Most of all, thankyou to God for making it all possible.

Rosemary Tijou



Some Christmas thoughts...

Olave Snelling looks at Christmas at the end of a difficult year

Fear not

As the Northern Hemisphere days draw in, blinds come down earlier and earlier in the darkening afternoons. Lamps are switched on and fires burn in the grate. Collars are turned up, hats, coats and scarves are donned at the bite of the late-December weather outside. Our thoughts turn towards carols and tree decorations, mince-pies and present wrapping, children's Nativity plays and family togetherness.

That is - if we have grates to burn fires in, houses to keep out the cold, warm clothes to put on, food to prepare, money for presents, families to love and be loved by. Thoughts turn towards celebrating the 'Season' in every corner of the globe. Happy Christmas, we love to say!

But the significance of the season is lost in the clang of cash-registers, the tinsel jangle of 'Jingle Bells' and 'I'm dreaming of a White Christmas' over endless Tannoy systems in countless stores worldwide. It is lost in crassness as people spill drunkenly out of bars in Father Christmas hats and into the streets and transport systems of our cities. Why, as that unique stillness falls upon the earth on Christmas Eve, 'Do they not know it's Christmas?' (as Bob Geldof puts it.) It's not as if the date of Christmas Day has anything to do with the real date of Christ's birth. More like a pagan festival with Yule logs, consummate consumption and all

that.

Yet in spite of 'all of that', Christmas is Christmas whatever you believe and wherever you are. To the believer in Christ that unique stillness falls. It is as if the world holds its breath at what is about to happen. 'Emmanuel, God with us' is coming into our world, Credit Crunch and all. He's coming into the muck and mire of the stable, into the panic of the falling stock market, into sub-prime mortgage chaos, into home repossession, unemployment, bankrupt banks and horrible fear.

"Fear not," said the Angel of the Lord as the glory of the Lord flashed and shone all about the shepherds watching over their flocks by night. 'For behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all people. For to you is born this day in the town of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Messiah, the Lord.'

Source: Parish Pump

The Rev Richard Bewes considers Jesus...

Jesus - the only one to follow?

The human race is haunted by Jesus Christ. Films, books and articles proliferate. Often they present a very distorted view. But it is about him, rather than other religious leaders that the debate continues. And 'deities' that were huge in their time have all in turn been obliterated by this one great Name.

Few will say that Jesus was anything other than supremely good. His goodness was endorsed by his



friends (1 Peter 2:22) who had every opportunity to see him at close range; also by his enemies who could not make a single charge against him stick. Most remarkably of all, he himself made the claim of sinlessness (John 8:46). This was unlike all spiritual leaders, before or since, who, the more they advanced in character, became increasingly aware of their own moral imperfection.

Jesus Christ forgave people their sins - even the sins that they had committed against individuals whom Jesus had never met. This provoked the charge of blasphemy, for 'Who can forgive sins but God alone?' (Mark 2:5-7). Further, Jesus accepted the worship of people (John 20:28). True, there are 'gurus' today who receive worship, but they invariably end up in a tomb. Jesus rose from the dead.

Jesus made numerous claims, including that he was the Son of God in a unique sense (John 1:18). His relationship to 'the Father' was such

that he would refer to 'my Father and your Father' (John 20:17); never to 'our Father' - except in the case of the Lord's Prayer when it was his followers who should so pray. And Jesus did not hesitate to use the divine name 'I am' of himself (John 8:58).

Further, Jesus claimed to be Universal Judge (Matthew 7:22, 23; John 5:22, 23). No one else ever claimed the right to decide upon the eternal destiny of all people. Lastly, Christ claimed to be the Centre of all truth, drawing all types and conditions of humanity to himself (John 12:32, 46; 14:6).

Either Jesus was what he claimed to be, or he was not. No claimant who was wrong - on such massive issues - could possibly be 'mistaken'; he would have to be mad. But madness has never been attributed to Jesus.

Source: Parish Pump

You are cordially invited to... A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!!!

Guest of Honour: Jesus Christ

Date:

Traditionally, December 25th, but he's always around, so the date is flexible.

Time:

Whenever you're ready. Please don't be late, though, or you'll miss out on all the fun!

Dress Code:

Come as you are, because Jesus will give you fresh, new garments of his righteousness and purity to wear.

Place:

In your heart.... he'll meet you there. You'll hear him knock.



Father Christmas or Jesus?

† Father Christmas lives at the North Pole... **JESUS** is everywhere.

† Father Christmas rides in a sleigh... **JESUS** rides on the wind and walks on the water.

† Father Christmas comes but once a year.... **JESUS** is an ever present help.

† Father Christmas fills your stockings with goodies... **JESUS** supplies all your needs.

† Father Christmas comes down your chimney uninvited... **JESUS** stands at your door and knocks, and then enters your heart.

† You have to wait in line to see Father Christmas... **JESUS** is as close as the mention of his name.

† Father Christmas lets you sit on his lap... **JESUS** lets you rest in his arms.

† Father Christmas doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hi little boy or girl, what's your name?"... **JESUS** knew our name before we did. Not only does he know our name, he knows our address too. He knows our history and future and he even knows how many hairs are on our heads.

† Father Christmas has a belly like a bowl full of jelly... **JESUS** has a heart full of love.

† All Father Christmas can offer is HO HO HO... **JESUS** offers health, help and hope.

† Father Christmas says "You better not cry"... **JESUS** says "Cast all your cares on me, for I care for you."

† Father Christmas's little helpers make toys... **JESUS** makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.

† Father Christmas may make you chuckle but... **JESUS** gives you joy that is your strength.

† While Father Christmas puts gifts under your tree... **JESUS** became our gift and died on the tree.

Author unknown

Source: Parish Pump



An article from "The Word for today", published by United Christian Broadway

Support Your Pastor!

'Hold them in highest regard...'

1 Thessalonians 5:13 NIV

Phil Hines tells a humorous imaginary story about Jesus walking along the road one day and seeing a man crying. When He asked what was wrong, the man replied, 'I'm blind,' so Jesus healed him. Further along He met another man in tears and asked him the same question. He replied, 'I'm lame,' so Jesus healed him. Then He encountered a third man weeping. In response to Jesus' question he replied, 'I'm a pastor.' So Jesus sat down and wept right along with him! Pastoring can be a thankless job; that's why the Bible says, 'Hold them in highest regard.'

Somebody has described the 'Perfect Pastor' as one who preaches 20 minutes and sits down, condemns sin without offending anybody, works 16 hour days doing everything from preaching to sweeping, makes £400 a week and gives £200 back to the church, wears nice

clothes, has a model family, supports good causes and helps beggars who stop by the church. He's 36 and has been preaching for 40 years. He has a burning desire to work with young people and spends all his time with the senior citizens. He smiles all the time while keeping a straight face, because he has a keen sense of humour that finds him seriously dedicated. He makes 20 visits a day, spends every waking moment evangelising and is always in his office in case he's needed. The bad news is, he burned out and died at 37! Paul writes, 'Appreciatepastoral leaders who gave you the Word.' (Hebrews 13:7). 'Honour those... who work so hard for you, who have...the responsibility of ... guiding you...Overwhelm them with appreciation and love!' (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13TM). In other words support your Pastor!

See **Mary Comber** for details of publication.



December church diary

3rd

Wednesday **Village Festival Night**

4th

Thursday House Groups

6th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at All Saints

7th

Sunday 9.30am Communion -
The Pastor
11.00am Morning Worship –
The Pastor
6.30pm Evening Worship -
David Goodchild

8th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at All Saints

10th

Wednesday 12.00pm Lunch Fellowship

12th

Friday 12.00pm Lunch Fellowship

13th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at All Saints

14th

Sunday 10.30am The Pastor
Looking Forward
to Christmas
6.30pm Communion – The
Pastor

18th

Thursday 7.30pm Christmas Concert

20th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at All Saints

21st

Sunday 10.30am All Age Service
The Pastor
– The King is
Coming
4.00pm Praise Party-
David Walters inc.
refreshments after.

24th

Wednesday 4.30pm Crib Service- – inc.
refreshments after
7.30pm Carols by
Candlelight

25th Christmas Day

10.00am The Pastor Family
Service

28th

Sunday 10.30 am Morning Service
- Communion The
Pastor
6.30 pm Evening Worship

New Years Day

Church Open 10.30am – 12.00
for Prayer and
Reflection

OTHER LOCAL EVENTS LISTED ON BACK COVER



Balcombe United Reformed Church



Bramble Hill, Balcombe, RH17 6HR.

Contact: Mrs Leonie Wren (01444 811253)

Members of Lindfield URC are welcome to join us. Our services are as follows:-

7th 10.30am Paul Hunt
14th 10.30am Philip Wren
21st 3.30pm CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT -
Charles Martin
28th 10.30am Philip Wren

You are especially welcome to join us for our **CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT** Service at 3.30pm on December 21st and to stay afterwards for a chat over a cup of tea and mincepies.

FlowerRota



Arranging

Distributing

December

7th	Audrey Saunders	Barbara Shepherd
14th	Heather Swann	Margaret Gomme
21st	Christmas Decorations	No Distribution
28th	Christmas Decorations	No Distribution

January

4th	Gladys Porter	Kay Phillpot
11th	Lucy Thom	Jo Bloxham
18th	Lesley Sparks	Iris Bingham
25th	Mary Comber	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.



Daily Communication

The Venerable Julian Henderson is Archdeacon of Dorking in the Diocese of Guildford. He is married to Heather and has 2 grown up children.

The gift of words and speech is one we often take for granted. But it is remarkable, and part of the mystery of being human, that God has made us in such a way, that we are able to communicate with one another. And that ability has seen a radical transformation over the last 50 years, as the world of the internet, email, websites, and mobile phones has made it possible to be in touch with others almost anywhere in the world, at any time and at the press of a few buttons.

The downside of this instant contact is that the pace of life has increased dramatically and everyone seems busier. Making time to stop, to reflect, to press the pause button, in order to regain our breath, is more and more of a challenge. But it is a mainstream Christian tradition, arising out of Jesus' own practice of taking time to pray, that it is good and right that time is made to communicate with God, to both hear from Him as we meditate on the His Word, the Bible, and respond to Him in the variety of the forms of prayer, praise, confession, thanksgiving and intercession..

The first reason for this is that God has made us to know Him and be in relationship with Him. Augustine, the Christian of many centuries ago, said: 'our hearts are restless, till they find their

rest in You, O Lord.' There is a part of our being that needs by its very nature to be in communication with one other than ourselves and that explains why people everywhere in the world, in every culture and generation, have demonstrated a desire to worship and pray to someone or something. At this level prayer, being in communication with God, is the most natural thing to do and brings a sense of fulfillment and peace to our lives. We were born for this. God has commanded us to pray.

The second reason why communication with God is so important is that if we are seeking to live our lives with Him and for Him, then we need to be in touch with Him to allow His will to influence ours, to ensure we remain dependent upon Him and to receive from Him the strength and gifts and guidance we need. It is like being in touch with HQ and for that to have meaning it needs to be on a regular basis, and many would argue a daily basis. A daily time of reading the Bible and prayer, a 'Quiet time' as it has been called, provides a discipline that gives a structure to our lives and to our relationship with God. Instead of being squeezed out of our busy schedules, God should have an honoured place in the diary. Yes, in one sense we can pray on and off all through the day, as



needs prompt us, but unless there is a focus time that makes us concentrate on God, we shall remain at the mercy of circumstances and at best our study and prayer will be haphazard.

A third reason for daily communication with God is the blessing we will then be to others. As we wait upon Him in quietness, as we read and obey His Word, and as we pray for others, so He renews our strength and transforms us more and more into His likeness. Consequently, as people look at Christians, so they should perceive increasingly something of Jesus about us. About a year ago I found the following poem in the Bible of an elderly Christian. It makes the point for daily communication with God:

Indwelt

Not merely in the words you say,
Not only in your deeds confessed,
But in the most unconscious way
Is Christ expressed.

Is it a beatific smile?
A holy light upon your brow?
Oh no! I felt His presence while
You laughed just now.

For 'twas not the truth you taught.
To you so clear, to me still dim,
But when you came, to me you brought
A sense of Him.

And from your eyes He beckons me,
And from your heart His love is shed,
Till I lose sight of you, and see
The Christ instead.

Moses in the Old Testament is said to have not known that the skin of his face shone by reason of his speaking with the Lord (Exodus 34.29). David the writer of the Psalms speaks of those that look to God as being radiant (Psalm 34.5). And down through the centuries those who have made and spent time alone with God have reflected something of His glory into this needy world.

So, daily communication with God ought not to be an option for the keenies, but the practice of all God's people. Of course, there will be times when we fail to keep to this ideal, and we must be careful not to beat ourselves up too much when we do. But we do well to aim high and maybe in the goodness and mercy of God, others will see something of Jesus in us. The old chorus puts it like this:

Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me,
All His compassion and purity.
May His Spirit divine, all my nature
refine,
Till the beauty of Jesus be seen in me.



Worthing Churches Homeless Projects

As we have done for several years now, we shall be devoting this month's mission giving to help the homeless through the work of WCHP, and we shall be welcoming Louise Brooks (Statutory & Trust Fundraiser) and Mick Gisbey (Service Manager), to share with us at the morning services on December 7th the latest news from the projects. What began back in the early 1990s as a 'soup and sandwich' run by a small number of concerned Christians has grown into a multi faceted organisation with specialist permanent staff assisted by over 200 volunteers, offering support to many who have found themselves at rock bottom, lonely and without a home.

The team at Worthing Churches Homeless Projects believes that everyone has the right to a home, regardless of the

difficulties and issues they may face in their lives. They believe in showing those who need their help, that the wider community is there to support them and to offer hope for a better future.

Last year Worthing Churches Homeless Project helped just over 450 individuals, 90% of whom were from Worthing and the surrounding area.

The largest number of homeless are so because of a relationship breakdown, followed by people who leave the armed services and young people coming out of care. All have a story to tell, some very sad.

There are currently five projects. St Clare's Day centre (where 2 of our church members are volunteers) is open 365 days a year, providing a vital lifeline of support for those on the street and offering hot and cold food, drinks, showers, a change of clothes, washing and drying





facilities, medical services, chiropody, hairdressing, advice and support.. The Direct Access Hostel, a sanctuary away from the chaos and destruction of living on the streets is normally the first port of call where individuals can find food and shelter, normally for up to 8 weeks. The Stepping Stones Project, a longer term project where people can take stock of their lives and spend up to 2 years brushing up the skills they'll need to live in their own accommodation. This might include cooking, cleaning, rebuilding or making new relationships. The Recovery Project, opened over 2 years ago, is a specialist housing project for people with drug and alcohol related problems. 'Move on' accommodation is for people who are ready to leave the projects which offer 24/7

support, with accommodation for 5 people where they can learn to be more independent, with reduced support provided.

The work undertaken by Worthing Churches Homeless Projects is crucial, and people who live in the accommodation receive the specialist support needed to ensure their recovery.

With your help lives can be turned around. Thank you to all of you here in Lindfield who have given practical and financial support and have prayed for the work to go forward. It is really appreciated!

Visit the display in the church concourse throughout December to find out more.

Thank you.

Also visit www.wchp.org.uk online.



**worthing churches
homeless projects**



Care for your Christmas Tree

Turkeys really hate Christmas for obvious reasons. Christmas trees, dependent on type, are not too keen either!

When selecting your tree you need to consider -

- which type to choose
- how long you want it to last
- how much space (and height) you have
- how much you want to spend.

Once you've made up your mind it's still a bit confusing so, hopefully this quick guide will help you.

Cut trees

These have been sawn off so that there are no roots for survival beyond twelfth night (plantations are topped up every year so that there is sustainable growth). You can choose the more traditional and cheaper cut Norway spruce with its familiar scent or Nordman types with scentless, heavier branches (you can even buy a pine-scented spray!). This latter type has darker green needles and doesn't scatter them nearly so generously over your carpets!

Whichever sort you go for, after purchasing -

1. Saw approximately 1 inch off the butt to allow the recut tree to absorb water and remain fresh.
2. Place in a clamped stand with a water reservoir and keep filled with water : it's amazing how much water the average tree drinks.
3. Keep out of doors as long as possible : spray all over with water until shortly before taking inside.
4. To reduce needle drop caused by moisture loss, spray with "Spray 'n' Save". Wait for 30 minutes before taking indoors to decorate.
5. Once indoors, place the tree in a cool position as far away from radiators as possible.





Potted trees

These are trees that have some roots and have around a 50% chance of survival. After purchasing -

1. Plant in a wooden barrel, terracotta or plastic pot in a good tree or shrub compost.
2. The same points as 3, 4 and 5 above then also apply to potted trees.
3. After Christmas, replant in the garden as soon as possible, but wait if the ground is frozen.. Spread what roots that do exist into a hole filled with a good tree and shrub compost.
4. During the year, especially if hot and dry, water regularly at the roots and all over to create the same cool and drizzly climate as in their natural environment (similar to our summer this year!)

Container Grown Trees

These are trees that have not been "potted" as above but grown in the same container all their life, having a good chance of surviving for years. After purchasing -

1. Keep in pot, caring in the same way as above.
2. When apparently rootbound, pot on to a pot several sizes larger, to avoid too much regular root disturbance.
3. If planted in the garden, be careful not to disturb or cut the roots too much when repotting to bring back indoors.
4. Bring indoors gradually to avoid shock, perhaps from garden to garage, then low heated room etc.

Whichever type of tree you buy, have a Happy Christmas Tree!
Stuart Marsh

Next month: Christmas Houseplant Care.



Thank you

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to all our friends who attended Les's funeral in August. Many thanks also to all the ladies who provided and served the refreshments to our Grandchildren, my brother and his family and to our friends.

Thanks too to Charles, Mike and Jean for the comfort and companionship you gave to Les in his final months.

May I wish you all a very Happy Christmas with love from Elsie Anderson and family.

Write a note.....

We have a number of our young people away at University or taking a year out. It has been suggested that (a) we do keep these youngsters in our prayers, and (b) write to them. To help

in the former, there will soon be photos of at least some of them on the 'Share Care Corner' board in the Concourse. A short letter or note would be a real encouragement; just to know they are not forgotten and that we are upholding them in prayer. Is this something you could do? I'm sure their parents will be only too pleased to give you the young people's address. Please do remember them and their parents at this time of change and challenge in their lives.

Katie Cookney

– Year out in India.

Andy Cookney

Jonathan & Alex Hall

Johnny (& James) Dew

Helen Merrett

Sam Griffiths

Jess Elphick

thanks, Fo Tingley

The Fellowship

There is no meeting in December as our usual date is so close to Christmas. However, to make up for this we are having two meetings in January 2009. The first of these is on **Saturday 10th January**, when we are holding a Coffee Morning. On this occasion we will be joined by members of the Art Group, who will be showing us some of their work. This will be from 10:30 – 12 noon. The Second meeting is on **Wednesday 28th January** at 2.45pm, when we will welcome our Pastor, Rev. Charles Martin. At this meeting there will be our usual Bring and Buy Stall.

These two events are a great way to start the New Year and we look forward to a time of friendship and fellowship together. New members will be made very welcome.

Winifred Scopes



Christmas Post-Box

At the end of November, a giant fluffy post-box will appear in the concourse, for church members to post Christmas cards to other church members. We hope you will use this facility as opposed to using Royal Mail. We just ask that you give a donation in place of buying stamps. This giving will go towards Tearfund.

The Final posting date will be Friday 19th December, and we will have the letters sorted for collection on Sunday 21st December.

A few tips for successful delivery:

- Please put the full name including surname of the person you are sending to. (We have lots of Fiona's, Kath's, David's etc.)
- Please put the full first line of the address. (We only have the 'Who's Who' to go by and some people may not be in there and we can't deliver it if it is not collected.)

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas
The Post-Box Team



A Christmas greeting from Jenny and Charles

We hope you will all understand, but even after eight months of living in this wonderful village, we are still grappling with names and faces and it will be quite impossible for us to include everyone on a Christmas card list. The danger of leaving someone out is too awful to contemplate.

Our older son Matthew, his wife Elisabeth and their two children Valerie (3years) and David (9 months) will be with us early in December, so instead of us being “two”, we shall be “six” and Ryecroft, big as it is, will be bulging at the seams. Along with getting used to the way Christmas is celebrated at Lindfield URC, we will have our hands full.

So instead of sending Christmas cards, I hope you understand why we are using this opportunity, to wish everyone in the fellowship a really happy and blest Christmas. May you and those you love, draw close to our loving God this season, as we share in the life and witness of the church.

*With love from **Jenny and Charles***



Concerts

Night of Miracles...

is a short Christmas Musical written by John W. Peterson which the Singers performed several years ago. We have got the music out of the cupboard and are going to perform it on **Friday 12th December** at **2.00pm** in the Lindfield Evangelical Church.

Traditional Christmas Concert

Thursday 18th December at 7.30pm

We are pleased to announce that the **Copthorne Silver band** will be joining the **Sunday Morning Singers** and guests to present a carol concert.

Admission is free and there will be a retiring collection in aid of St Peter and St James Hospice and other charities.

Come and sing along with many carols and even a mince pie or two.

Carol Playing

The **Perdido Players** will be playing outside the church on **Saturday 20th December** from **10.00am**.



Come along to the Pomp and
Splendour of a Grand Christmas Gala
at the Royal Albert Hall

20th December 2008

LONDON PHILHARMONIC CHOIR
LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
FANFARE TRUMPETERS OF THE BAND OF THE
WELSH GUARDS

Tickets £40 including coach from Burgess Hill
Methodist Church London Road.

For Tickets and more details phone
Mrs Beryl Edwards on 01444 241068



Carol Singing around the streets of Lindfield

– evenings of **Monday 8th, Thursday 11th and Tuesday 16th December 2008, 7.30pm**



Christmas is a time of giving and many organisations use carol singing as a means of giving of their time / effort but in the hope / expectation of raising much needed funds albeit for worthwhile causes.

We would like to further the action of some Christian Groups of giving unconditionally, with the gift of carols (+ probably a chocolate or two) going around our local community door-to-door with the only hope that the songs are a reminder of what Jesus Christ did for us 2000 years ago.

Rosemary & Ray Tijou, the Goodchild family and Dawn & Richard Walters respectively have again agreed to lead an evening as above, and we are looking for at least 8 other singers to support them each evening, which will last for about 75 minutes.

Please note above dates in your diaries, and duly add you name to the 'sign up' sheet on the noticeboard, or contact the undersigned regarding this traditional start to the CHRISTmas celebrations.

Ray Smith

THE MID SUSSEX CHOIR

Annual Yuletide Concert

This takes place at **7.30pm on Saturday 13th December** at **St. Wilfrid's Church, Haywards Heath**. As usual, the programme will be varied with items from the Choir as well as opportunity for the Audience to participate in familiar carols. Tickets available at the door, or beforehand from Choir members.

Please see Elise Burden, Carol Merrett, Fiona Tingley or Graham Wood.



Men's Breakfast

at Lindfield United Reformed Church

Saturday 24th January, 8.15am

Speaker: Lance de Vries

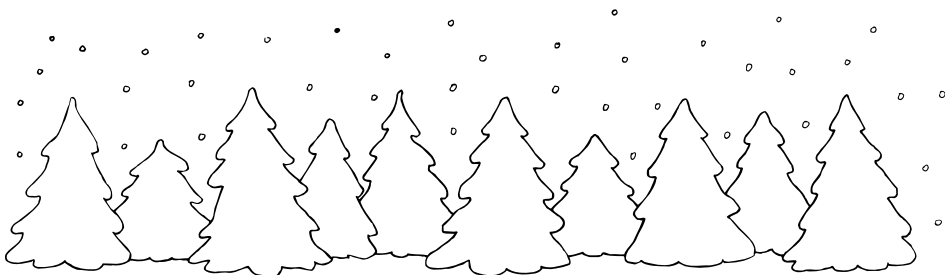
Title: 'What you see is NOT what you get'

Lance is the Operations Director for CVM (Christian Vision for Men) and will be addressing issues, which can affect us as men such as:

- the battle for the mind
- dangers of the Internet □ walking with Jesus

Come and enjoy fellowship, a full English breakfast and Lance's talk

Free tickets are available from
Ron Goodenough (01444 417002) or Charles Martin (01444 487607)



Church activities

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

- 9.30am Service for all the family, including crèche and Light house (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:

Chris Comber 01444 482641

Stepping Stones:

Janet Goodenough
01444 417002

Transport:

Tina Elphick 01444 484440

Zest Co-ordinator:

Clare Nibloe 01444 484683

Light house (Junior church)

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.

HAYWARDS HEATH MUSIC SOCIETY

Mid-Sussex Baroque Ensemble

directed by Martin Palmer

Saturday 6 December, 7.45pm
St. Wilfrid's Church, Haywards Heath

THE MID SUSSEX CHOIR

Annual Yuletide Concert

Saturday, 13th December, 7.30pm
St. Wilfrid's Church, Haywards Heath

Tickets available at the door, or
beforehand from Choir members.
Please see Elise Burden, Carol Merrett,
Fiona Tingley or Graham Wood.

*Good***NEWS**

Christmas 2008 Cracker Supplement



*Your Christmas
Greetings!*



Blessing at Christmas
 Hope, Joy, Peace in 2009
 To All.

Aubrey

Norma



Peace & Joy to all
 the church family +
 from Pat Waller

Wishing you all
 A Very Happy Christmas
 and a prosperous New Year
 Love from Raymond and Rosemary
 God Bless. Tjoni

A HAPPY
 + MERRY

WINTER
 12/20/08

Annex

HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A
 GOOD NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL.
 WINIFRED & JOHN SCOPES.

With every good wish to
ALL our friends at L.U.R.C.
From Mary and Chris.

Irene Curtis wishes everyone
love, joy, peace and happiness.

Christmas Greetings, & Health & Gd.
Fortune to one and All, this
Jestive Season. Dorothy Foster.

Best Wishes for a happy
Christmas and New Year
Love from
Jane, Tim, Alex, Johanna &
xxxxx Kerion

Steve & Ellie wish everyone at LURC
a wonderfull relaxing Christmas
and Happy New Year

We wish all our friends at
the URC a very HAPPY CHRISTMAS
and GOD'S BLESSING in the
NEW YEAR - DERRICK & GWEN

To All Our Friends
MAY YOU KNOW THE
JOY & PEACE OF CHRISTMAS
David & Carol Walters

Wishing everyone a very happy
Christmas and New Year
Best wishes Bob & Gloria X

WISHING YOU ALL A VERY
HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A
BLESSED NEW YEAR
FROM BRIAN & RITA COOPER

ANNE PARKER WOULD LIKE TO WISH
EVERYONE AT THE WINDFIELD URC
A VERY HAPPY AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS

Happy Christmas
to all our friends
and
every blessing for 2009.

From:
Terry and
Alison
Ward.

Good health and happiness to all
special friends at Lindfield URC
this Christmas.

Love to you all. Fiona Platt



The work is
a bit wonky - but
pretty pretty - but
the greeting is
genuine - love at
Christmas to everyone
from Charles and
Terry
Martin

TO ALL THE HOUSEHOLDS OF FAITH AT
LINDFIELD U.R.C. HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR.
JOHN AND ANNE BLAKE.

IS IT REALLY THIS TIME AGAIN?
WE WISH MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS AT
LINDFIELD U.R.C. A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
WITH LOVE IN CHRIST JESUS FROM
CLIFF GRIFFITHS



Wishing all my friends
a happy Christmas and
best wishes for 2009.
Brenda J.

Best wishes to everyone for a
very Happy and Peaceful Christmas
from Stuart & Carol Marsh

Wishing everyone a joyous
Christmas and a happy and
healthy New Year.
Joe Lunt.

WE PRAY THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SEE
PAST THE TURKEY & TINSLE TO JESUS, THE
HOPE OF OUR HEARTS. WITH LOVE FROM
Harry & Lydia, Peter & Rosemary & Esther



Happy Christmas and
"Joyeux Noël" to all at
the URC. With Love
The Merretts



Clare, Emma and Rachel
Nibloe
Wish all their friends at L.U.R.C.
a Happy Christmas
X

As we celebrate our Saviour's birth I send
my love & good wishes to my Church
Family, & pray for peace & joy for you
all in 2009.
Siona/30.

Brian and Sue Teter wish all at Lindfield U.R.C.
a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and
Joyous New Year.

To all our friends at L.U.R.C.
We wish you a very happy and
blessed Christmas, from
Ray & Audrey



Wishing everyone a very
Happy Healthy and
Peaceful Christmas.
Blessings and love
Tony & Margaret Stevens.



