

Good NEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2008

Delhi



Katie's off to India



PLUS...

- **New Series - Living the Christian Life Every Day**
- **Find out what Fiona Flett does**
- **Do you know the history of Balcombe URC**

Cautionary Statistics...

1 Avoid riding in cars because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.



2. Do not stay home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.

3. Avoid walking on streets or pavements because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.



4. Avoid travelling by air, rail, or water because 6% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.

5. Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in hospitals. Above all else, avoid hospitals.



You will be pleased to learn that only .001% of all deaths occur in worship services in church, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders. Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is at church!

Bible study is safe too. The percentage of deaths during Bible study is even less.



FOR SAFETY'S SAKE - GO TO CHURCH AND READ THE BIBLE ... IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!

Dear Friends...



Not long ago, I had a birthday. You know the worst thing about birthdays, don't you? It's all those "thank-you" letters you have to write. I had to write seventeen ! Although I was grateful for everything I was given, I have some sympathy for a little lad called Eddie, whose grandmother's birthday present was a seat at a performance of one of Wagner's operas. His thank-you letter read as follows

"Dear Granny, thanks for the birthday present. It's what I always wanted, but not very much. Love Eddie."

What a marvellous combination of honesty and tact!

Having reached the tender age of 60, I have a great deal to be grateful for. I no longer have to pay for prescriptions and I can claim my 'bus pass'. Of course some would think these delights poor reparation for the advancing years, but not me. I am **glad** - yes glad to be getting older, because each passing day brings me nearer the fulfillment of my life's ambition. You see, I had the inestimable privilege of being able to give myself totally to God's work, from the moment I left school. After six years in College and University, it was straight into the Ministry at the age of twenty-four. All I have ever wanted is to give the whole of my life to God and His people and it looks as though I shall achieve my ambition.

Not everyone is so fortunate. On holiday recently, I was watching Breakfast Television (an indulgence I don't usually allow myself). Esther Rantzen was waxing lyrical about a new government website for the over fifties. It encourages you to find new interests in life when you have retired and the kids have

left home. Apparently, some people find life very difficult at that point. The problem, is that they have nothing to drive them any more - no ambition, no goal to reach. How awful!

If you are a Christian, you need never be like that. There's work to be done for the Kingdom of God from age nine to ninety-nine. You don't have to be a Minister to give the whole of your life to God. One of the best and most effective Christians I have ever known, was an Insurance Agent who beavered away all week for the Prudential for years, but at weekends and after he retired, was a dynamo of spiritual energy. He worked with what was then the "National Young Life Campaign" and countless young men and women were led to Christ through his ministry.

What we need is the same thing Paul advised Timothy to nurture, when he told him to.....

"Fan into flame the gift of God which is in you" 2 Timothy 1:6

No matter how young or old you are, is there fire in your heart for God's Kingdom ? Or has the fire gone out ? Are you like the man whose tombstone read

Died at thirty, buried at sixty.

The good news is that no matter how cold the embers, the Holy Spirit can still fan them into flame. Let's "burn" for Jesus until there's nothing left and then share in the glory He has in store.

Love to you In His Name,
Charles Martin

GoodNEWS

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

Editorial



We are starting a mini series this month which we hope will challenge us about our faith being just an element of our lives rather than our lives being an expression of our faith. I am very grateful to the writers of these articles for being willing to give their time to contribute to the magazine. **James Clarke, Rector of All Saints, starts the ball rolling with the basic need of all Christians to be spiritually well fed.**

Katie Cookney is off this month to India via Birmingham for her 9 month short term mission, with BMS. She tells us of her aims and hopes for this time.

Leonie Wren writes about the History of the Balcombe Church and Fiona Flett gives us a peek into her life as a Mid-wife. What comes over so clearly is her love of her job in spite of the frustrations.

There are the reminders of meetings and events.

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 Diary



Jesus didn't teach us how to preach. He didn't teach us how to sing.
He taught us how to pray.

Monday - **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,**

Begin with Praise. Thank God you can call him Father because of Jesus' death and resurrection. Praise Him for who He is. The Lord is my righteousness, sanctifier, peace, healer, provider, banner of love and shepherd, and he is living within me.

Tuesday - **Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

Pray for God's kingdom to come and that His will is done in:

Your life

Your family (children, partner, other family members)

Our church (minister, elders, faithfulness of the people, harvest)

Our nation (Lindfield, local and national political and spiritual leaders)

Wednesday - **Give us this day our daily bread.**

Submit yourself again to God's will for your life. Believe it is God's will to prosper you. Be specific in bringing your needs to God. Decide to pray and not to worry. Be tenacious. Praise the Lord because he knows your needs and will provide.

Thursday - **Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors.**

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you areas of your life which are not pleasing to Him. Confess them to God and ask Him to forgive you. Do not allow the devil to condemn you. Forgive others and

release them to God. Pray that you may experience the fruits of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.

Friday - **And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.**

Put on the armour of God. Declare that:

Jesus is my truth. Jesus is my

righteousness. Jesus is my readiness.

Jesus is my faith. Jesus is my salvation.

Jesus is my living word. Jesus is my

baptiser in the Spirit.

“God is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust.”

Saturday - **Yours in the kingdom, the power and the glory. Forever and ever.**

Praise God because He has called you by name into His kingdom. Think about God's power and His great love for you. Measure His power and love against your concerns and needs. Think about God's glory. Ask the Holy Spirit to change you to be more like Jesus.

Sunday - **Amen**

Pray for a spirit of Christian unity. Pray for a deeper personal relationship with Jesus for yourself and all Christians in our church family. Pray for the vision and equipping of the Holy Spirit to reach out to those who struggle on in life without knowing Jesus' love.

Based on “Learning the Joy of Prayer” by Larry Lea

Off to India... via Birmingham!!

After so long of preparation and waiting for the start of my Agap year with BMS World Mission it is finally becoming a reality, in fact as I write, it is exactly one month until I wake up at some unearthly hour, travel to Heathrow and hop (I say hop...) on an 11 hour flight to Delhi. For a holiday? Well, yes it will be fun and I will remember my time there probably for the rest of my life, however it will also be tiring, and incredibly challenging... almost certainly one the most challenging things I have ever done. So, no not for a holiday, but instead (excuse the cliché) to try to make a difference, in fact I could go as far as to say I am going to try to save lives, not in a medical sense, but to tell people how God has saved their lives.

I believe anyone can go to another country and teach English or help women to learn new skills so that they can earn a living, but I hope to do more with my time in Delhi. I can say this because God is going with me, in fact He is there already preparing the way. He will use the team for whatever purpose He has for us, which may just be to do a bit of gardening; to plant a few seeds in people's hearts, or it may be more. For the moment only He knows, but whatever God has got planned I pray that we will be able to fulfil it!

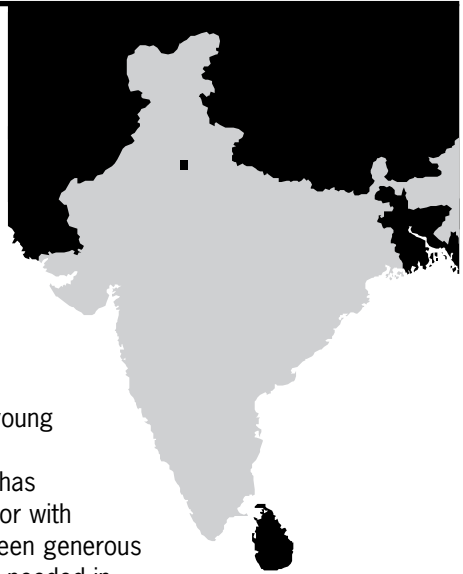
As a team of four, three girls and one boy, we will be in India for six months. We will each have our own responsibilities within the team as there is no one team leader. During our six month stay we will



be teaching English to children living in the slums, helping with women's empowerment programmes, which enable women to learn skills so that they can earn a living, as well as supporting a local church. Our months training in Birmingham will be in preparation for all these things as well as preparing us to cross into a different culture. We will learn how to live and work as a team, and we will develop an understanding of the nature of Christian faith and mission. This training period will also be the first time we meet each other face to face, so we will also learn about each other!

After we have returned from Delhi we will set off on a tour of the UK, visiting a church a week for two months. This time will be for us to share our experiences with other people as well as to encourage Churches to take a wider look at the world church and play an active part in supporting world mission. It will also be to raise awareness

Feature - Off to India



of BMS World Mission and encourage other young people to take part in their Action Teams.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has supported me thus far, be it with prayer and or with generous donations. As a Church you have been generous enough to give me over half the money that I needed in order to embark on this incredible journey and I am exceedingly grateful for this! Thank you!

Katie Cookney

A few prayer points:

- Pray that the team, as we meet for the first time, will get along and be able to get to know each other and to learn to work well together as a team.
- Pray that we will be able to get a grasp of the language so that we will be able to communicate and immerse ourselves in India.
- Pray that we will learn important lessons throughout training and that we will be able to put these into practice in India.

The team will be sending out a prayer letter every month, so if you would like a copy please contact Ron Goodenough, John Barling or Adrian and Val Cookney.

Some dates:

Training – 7th September to 3rd October

Overseas (in Delhi) – 13th October to 6th April

Touring UK (including one week in LURC) – 27th April to 26th June

September Mission & Harvest Giving

We are doing things a little differently during September. Instead of devoting our giving to one organisation for the month we are splitting the Sundays.

The first two - **7th** and **14th** we want to give everyone another opportunity to give towards the support of **Katie Cookney** as she goes to India with the **BMS (Baptist Missionary Society)**. Katie has written her own article for this issue.

In the event of giving exceeding what she is required to raise we will allocate the surplus to the BMS Action Team Programme which will help others who perhaps have not been able to raise all their support.

The **21st** is a gift day for '**Celebr8**'

Harvest Thanksgiving is on the **28th** when we want to encourage everyone to give financially towards the work of **Off the Fence in Brighton & Hove**. We will designate our gifts for the 'Antifreeze' project among the homeless. The church will be decorated as usual and we are asking for gifts of non-perishable food items these will be divided between the Easter Team and Off the Fence.

The Easter Team who we have supported for the past few years provide food parcels for those in need in Crawley and particularly need:

- tins of meat vegetables, soup, beans and fruit,
- pasta, cereals, jam and long life milk.

For the homeless, Off the Fence specifically need;

- instant hot chocolate and coffee,
- teabags, sugar, chocolate bars,
- muesli bars and biscuits.

There will be opportunity to bring your non-perishable food gifts during the Harvest Services.

Please put your gifts in the special envelopes, completing a Gift Aid Slip if appropriate, and place in the offertory at any Sunday service.

Thoughts for Harvest Thanksgiving

The Minister had been asked not to tell the children to lift up their boxes of fruit and vegetables in the Harvest Service. Last year, apples, tomatoes, even one or two eggs had gone cascading all over the church with disastrous results. However, he forgot, and cheerfully called out “Now children, let’s all lift up our boxes to God to show how grateful we are for all His blessings!”

There are less hazardous ways of expressing our gratitude, but at least it was expressed; all too often, it is forgotten. If like me, you have countless nephews and nieces, all of whom want a five pound note in their birthday cards and you hardly ever get a “thank-you”, you will know how God must feel most of the time. It’s rotten to be taken for granted. Maybe we ought not to follow the Minister’s example and cause chaos, but we ought to remember to say “thank-you” to the Creator of the Universe somehow and coming to church at Harvest Thanksgiving is one very good way of doing so, but there are dangers.

When the church has been decorated and the fruit and veg have been given about twenty-four hours to fill it with their aroma, it hits you straight away as you walk in. It’s then that nostalgia takes over. That lovely smell brings back all those times you stood as a child carolling -

“All good gifts around us are sent from

heaven above

There’s nothing like a bit of “ploughing the fields and scattering” to bring back memories ! But why do we enjoy celebrating harvest so much ? Is it really because we are grateful to God for everything He has given us ? Or is there another reason ? Could it be that we just like to remind ourselves of our security - that no matter what happens to people far away, we are well provided for? Even in the midst of the “credit-crunch”, folk in the UK and Europe have infinitely more than millions in the under-developed world and it’s very tempting to say “Blow you Jack – I’m alright !”

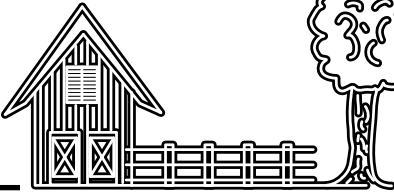
That’s very far from a Christian attitude, so we must guard against it. We can give money to TEAR Fund of course, and I hope we will, but there’s something else we could do which might help us to identify more, with those less fortunate than ourselves.

Have you ever thought of deliberately missing one meal each week and putting the money you would have spent on it, into a box to be collected and eventually sent along with your regular contribution ? Hunger is not something we usually experience in this country and having a very mild dose of it once a week might help us to understand how other people feel all the time. It might help us to pray for them too – there’s a thought !

CSM

Harvest Supper and Barn Dance

This will be held on the **27th September** at **7.00pm**



Do come to enjoy a time of fellowship and friendship. *Ploughmans* supper and drinks will be available and tickets for the evening will be supplied nearer the time.

For more details please see the weekly church notices.

Product Recall Notice

The Maker of all human beings is recalling all units manufactured, regardless of make or year, due to a serious defect in the primary and central component of the heart.

This is due to a malfunction in the original prototype units code named Adam and Eve, resulting in the reproduction of the same defect in all subsequent units. This defect has been technically termed "Sub sequential Internal Non-Morality" or more commonly known as S.I.N., as it is primarily expressed.

Some other symptoms include:

1. Loss of direction
2. Foul vocal emissions
3. Amnesia of origin
4. Lack of peace and joy
5. Selfish or violent behaviour
6. Depression or confusion in the mental component
7. Fearfulness
8. Idolatry
9. Rebellion

The Manufacturer, who is neither liable nor at fault for this defect, is providing factory-authorized repair and service free of charge to correct this SIN defect. The Repair Technician, Jesus, has most generously offered to bear the entire burden of the staggering cost of these repairs. There is no additional fee required.

continued p10

Product Recall Notice

The number to call for repair in all areas is: P-R-A-Y-E-R (toll free)

- Once connected, please upload your burden of SIN through the REPENTANCE procedure.
- Next, download ATONEMENT from the Repair Technician, Jesus, into the heart component.

No matter how big or small the SIN defect is, Jesus will replace it with:

1. Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Patience
5. Kindness
6. Goodness
7. Faithfulness
8. Gentleness
9. Self control

Please see the operating manual, the B.I.B.L.E. (Believers' Instructions Before Leaving Earth) for further details on the use of these fixes.

WARNING: Continuing to operate the human being unit without correction voids any manufacturer warranties, exposing the unit to dangers and problems too numerous to list and will result in the human unit being permanently impounded. For free emergency service, call on Jesus.

DANGER: The human being units not responding to this recall action will have to be scrapped in the furnace. The SIN defect will not be permitted to enter Heaven so as to prevent contamination of that facility.

Thank you for your attention!

Signed GOD

Note: Please assist where possible by notifying others of this important recall notice, and you may contact the Father any time by "knee mails".

Source: Parish Pump

Our Manse and other Animals!!

A census recently taken had revealed that Jenny and Charles have found themselves the proud owners of the following friends from the animal kingdom;

Bedroom/upper Landing: Bat: 1

Kitchen: mouse: 1 may be more, hard to tell as all look quite similar

Cellar: Slugs

Garden: Toads

Numerical data varies on the toads and slugs as both parties proved unwilling to cooperate in an orderly manner.....

In a recent conversation between the pastor and an Undertaker re: bat, the following was recounted; Pastor, "So I gently lifted the bat from the light. *It sat with two small paws over the fixture and made high pitched squeaking noises at me."

Undertaker, "Was it an old bat? If it was, it sounds exactly like my mother-in-law!"

*with a pocket Comb

Note to Editor: Should we mention to Charles and Jenny that the slugs in the cellar will soon be consumed by the frogs that move in next?!

Jacqui Adams

Church Prayer Meeting

September 25th

The Pastor will be leading the Church Prayer Meeting on Thursday evening September 25th and the theme of the meeting will be "Listening to God." We tend to regard prayer as our opportunity to tell God what we need, to share our worries and concerns with Him and ask Him to intervene in our own and other people's lives. Do we ever stop to think that prayer ought to be a two-way conversation?

Charles will be dealing with some of the techniques of listening to God and giving some guidance on a simple method of meditation with the use of Scriptures. Why not come along and find out how our prayer life can be a deeper and richer experience?

Charles Martin

Tell everyone about it!

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

Contact details on page 2.

September church diary

4th

Thursday House Groups

6th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
-9.30am at All Saints

7th

Sunday 9.30am Pastor Charles
Martin and
Communion
11.00am Pastor Charles
Martin
6.30pm Pastor Charles
Martin

10th

Wednesday 12.30 Lunch Fellowship

11th

Thursday 8.00pm Church Meeting

12th

Friday 12.30 Lunch Fellowship

13th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
-9.30am at All Saints

14th

Sunday 9.30am Pastor Charles
Martin Junior
Church Progression
Service
11.00am Pastor Charles
Martin
6.30pm Ron Goodenough
& Communion

18th

Thursday House Groups

20th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
-9.30am at All Saints

21st

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

23rd

Tuesday 7.45pm In Touch

24th

Wednesday Afternoon
Fellowship
7.30pm Elders Meeting

25th

Thursday 8.00pm Church Prayer
Meeting

27th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
-9.30am at All Saints
9.00am Church Decoration
7.00pm Harvest Supper
and Barn Dance

28th

Sunday 9.30am Pastor Charles
Martin
11.00am Pastor Charles
Martin and
Communion
6.30pm David Walters

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:-

| | |
|------|--------------------------|
| 7th | Jenny Martin |
| 14th | Philip Wren |
| 21st | HARVEST – Charles Martin |
| 28th | No service |

FlowerRota



Arranging

September

| | | |
|------|------------------|---------------|
| 7th | Joan Durrant | Jo Bloxham |
| 14th | Dorothy Forster | Iris Bingham |
| 21st | Carol Marsh | Heather Swann |
| 28th | Harvest Festival | Sue Tester |

Distributing

October

| | | |
|------|---------------|------------------|
| 5 | Zoe McQuillin | Jacqueline Wood |
| 12 | Jessie Green | Barbara Shepherd |
| 17th | Serena Nathan | Margaret Gomme |
| 26 | Audrey McKee | Kay Phillpot |

The **number** of people on the Sunday Flower Rota is getting low. I would welcome more people to come 'onboard'. It would be helpful if you could arrange the flowers yourself, but if not arrangements can be made for someone to do them for you. Perhaps you would like to put flowers in the church in memory of a loved one. Dates for this can be arranged. Please see me or contact me on telephone number 484494 if you require more information.

Betty Billins

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.

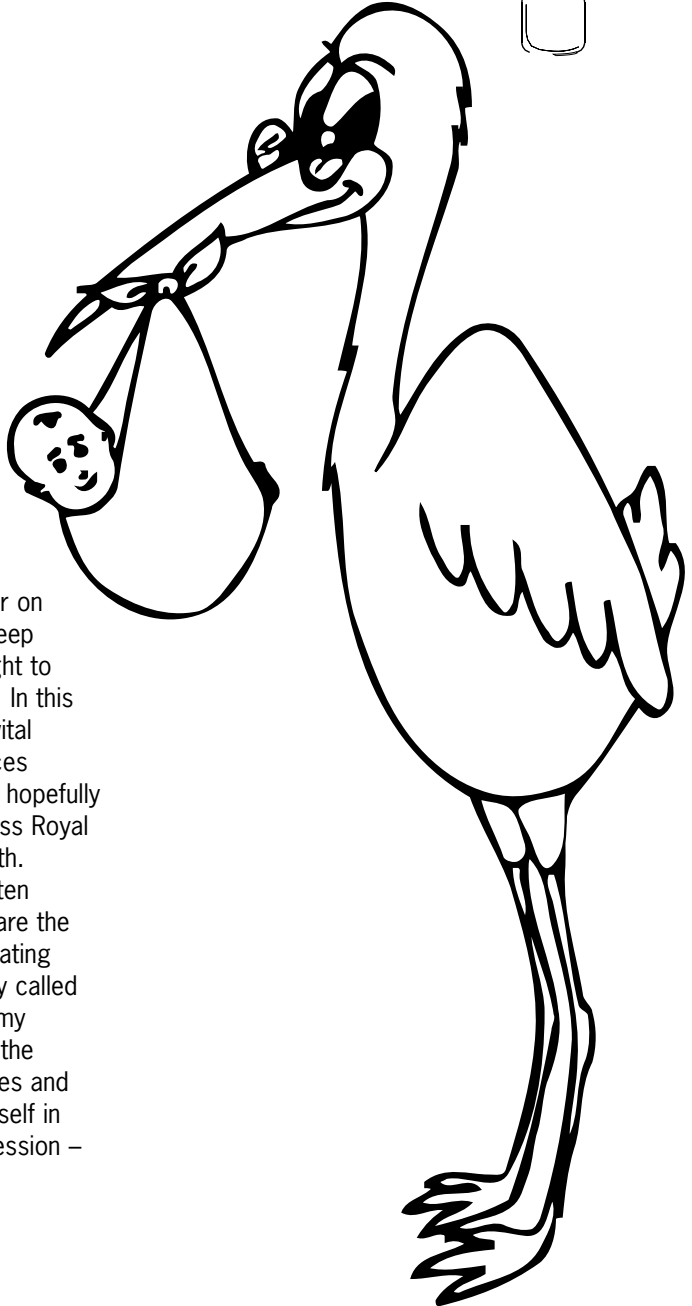
Fiona Flett

– Confessions of a midwife!

Two in the morning and vaguely the tune of William Tell Overture tickle my senses to wakefulness. My work mobile phone is ringing! That must mean a Homebirth. Instantly I am awake, pen and paper at the ready, name, address, contact number, is it baby number one, two or ten? That will determine how fast I have to get there or have I got time for a quick cup of tea and a slice of toast. It could be a very long morning and I never know when next I might eat! Into the car, soothing Christian music playing and a quick prayer to God to be with us all at this special time of attending the birth of the miracle of life.

A few hours later, a baby is born alive and well, happy family are tucked up in bed, all smiling. It leaves such a warm sense of happiness at leaving a new and complete family. Back to the hospital, bag restocked ready for the next homebirth, paperwork computed, and if I'm lucky I too can garb an hour's sleep before my day job as Community Team Leader of a band of happy midwives really starts.

In the office the first telephone call of the day may be an anxious newly pregnant mum, lots of questions, hopefully reassured, clinics to arrange and staff, classes to co-ordinate, mothers and babies to visit. A midwife's life is never boring. Of course there are management meetings, lack of staff, lack of equipment, sickness issues no different to any other large organisation but still as



frustrating.

I put my battle armour on to attend meetings to keep the banner flying and fight to save our Maternity unit. In this geographical area it is vital to keep maternity services located, maintained and hopefully improved - at the Princess Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath.

Work is never dull, often very long, no two days are the same, sometimes frustrating and patience is definitely called on, but I thank God for my life as a Midwife and all the wonderful people, families and circumstances I find myself in – a very rewarding profession – Mostly!

Fiona Flett

In Touch

The "In Touch" ladies will be meeting on Tuesday, September 23rd at 7.45pm. All ladies are welcome.

Please will you bring with you the balance of the cost of the Away Day in October and give it to Sue Waller.

The Fellowship

The Fellowship will start a new session on Wednesday 24th September at 2.45pm.

We will start with our AGM and this will be followed by time when those present will have an opportunity to share one of their favourite childhood memories. There will be a Bring and Buy Stall.

All are welcome

Bereavement

We extend our love and sincere sympathy to **Elsie Anderson** and her family, following the death in July of her dear Husband Les. Les was a much loved member of our Church family and will be sadly missed by us all. We pray that they will know God's comfort and strength day by day.

New Address

Steven and Ellie Farley have moved. Their new address is: 11 Sparrow Way, Burgess Hill, West Sussex RH15 9XU.

Request for Baby Things

Charles and Jenny have their oldest son, wife and two children (9 months and 3) coming in November for an indefinite time when they relocate from the US (Phoenix, Arizona) to do Christian work in the UK.

Charles and Jenny have several items of children's equipment already but if anyone has any of the following either to lend or to sell they would be very grateful to know. Tel. No 482098

Warm baby sleep over suit (9 months old)
Baby monitor
Toilet seat for three year old
Toilet step(s)

High chair(s)
Car seat for a three year old
Play pen
Under counter fridge



With many thanks, *Charles and Jenny*

Daily Sustenance – Bible study

James Clarke has been vicar of All Saints', Lindfield for twelve years. He is married to Chris, who is a police officer and they have two children Sian (24) and Richard (22). James is a Canon of Chichester Cathedral.

The most important thing a pastor can do for the people he serves is to maintain his own spiritual vitality and the key element in this is daily bible study. One of the first things one learns as a Christian is to regard the Scriptures as spiritual food ("sweeter than honey", Ps.19:10) – we wouldn't dream of starving ourselves of physical food (though most of us could do with a bit of reducing!), so why do we think we can survive without feeding daily off the Word of God. "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Dt.8:3) Its hardly surprising that we fall prey to every kind of spiritual malaise when we neglect this essential nourishment. Here are some practical things I have learned over the years - not rocket science, but I hope helpful

Set aside each day some uninterrupted time to be with the Lord in the Scriptures. There is no doubt that an element of personal discipline is needed for this. I keep an hour for this (though I realise that I am in a privileged position here), but I think a minimum of half an hour is necessary if you are to get the most out of your Bible study. If this seems impossibly unrealistic, I think you need to do an audit of how you spend your time and make some changes in your priorities.

Decide on a programme of study. Don't just open the Bible in the middle and start reading – you wouldn't do that with the latest novel! Plan what you are going to read. Many people use published reading plans and Bible notes, and these can be very helpful, though do make a point

of changing these every year or so, so as to challenge yourself to grow. The best – and most challenging - bible-reading plan I have come across is Search the Scriptures, published over 40 years ago by IVP (recently reprinted). I aim to read the Bible through once each year in addition to my more in-depth daily study – this means that I can keep a proper perspective and not lose sight of the wood for the trees. Do make sure you have a proper balance between Old and New Testament, and different types of literature. Also, buy a simple commentary – I find the Focus on the Bible series published by Christian Focus (www.christianfocus.com) to be excellent, but there are many others available.

Before you begin, pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance. The Spirit has caused the Scriptures to be written for our learning and, marvellously, he is available to be our teacher as we study them. We need to give proper attention to our Teacher, so take

yourself to a place where there are no outward distractions and pray that you would not be inwardly distracted.

Read through the passage once quickly to get an overall sense of what it contains. Then, read through it a second time more slowly, jotting down in a notebook all the questions that come to mind about the text. How does this event relate to the passage immediately preceding it? Where is the action taking place? Who is involved? Why is it being recorded? What does it mean? Whatever question occurs to you – write it down and make a point of following up the answer. Many people don't bother to follow-through on this and that is why they find bible study so unsatisfying.

Pray again – the Holy Spirit will have been laying these questions on your heart and he will be wanting to teach you through them. Then begin to formulate answers to the questions you have asked. Use your commentary. If you don't

get a direct answer, consult other commentaries and other Christians. One of the best ways of studying the Bible is in small groups so that we can help each other understand.

The deeper we study something – whether art, music, whatever – the more we will get out of it. But remember: Bible study is not an academic exercise, but intensely practical. C H Spurgeon said that “The Bible wasn’t given to satisfy our curiosity, but to change our lives”. We need to continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will uncover the truths of the Scriptures so that our lives can be changed. The Apostle Paul, writing to Timothy, his young protégé, says that Scripture is useful for teaching (so that we can think rightly about God, ourselves and the world), rebuking (so that wrong thinking can be exposed), correcting (so that our behaviour is consistent with our calling as Christians – are there personal habits or practices that need to be reformed) and training in

righteousness (so that a pattern of right belief and practice can be handed on to a new generation of Christian disciples)

Over 250 years ago, the old Puritan William Grimshaw encouraged the practice not of bible reading, but bible meditation which he called “the soul’s chewing”. We want to chew on the Scriptures throughout each day so that we get every ounce of goodness and nourishment from them. The Church of England prayer for Bible Sunday puts it well: “Blessed Lord, who has caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through the patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life...”

James Clarke

The Bluebell Railway

There are something like 35 paid staff on the Bluebell Railway and in the region of 300/400 volunteers, so as the tasks undertaken are very varied and spread over the week I do not know many of the others. I started operating the Buffet car some 10 or more years back, having been introduced by Graham Campling, but had to give this up after being ill. It was fun, but involved a full day. I was then invited to join the small team of "Guides" for coach parties.

On arrival at Sheffield Park Station I sign-on and then check with those on the platform entrance that the party or parties expected that morning agree with my list. We are provided with a monthly list of coaches that have made reservations and given our availability to the organiser. Following this check I try to find out what locomotive is pulling us that day, the date it was built, coal and water capacity, the respective reserved carriages and any other facts that might be needed to answer questions! The guides are expected to meet the coaches to welcome the passengers to the railway, tell them of the facilities at the station, where their carriage is situated and what they can do while waiting to board.

The job is to make them welcome and also to speak to everyone if possible, tell them of the history of the line, point out what to look for on the journey and answer questions. For me, one the real highlights is just meeting people from all over the UK, usually of my age or older! Invariably, there are things of interest with every party and, even more, people of interest. One lady of 94 wrote down the name, number and class of the locomotive because her grandson would ask her as soon as she saw him! One gentleman, as we passed the buildings at Horsted Keynes, pointed to a doorway by the track-side and said "I used to work there!". A group from Bedford knew the chap who was in the next bed to me for 20 months while we were in the R.A.F on National Service, only to tell me he had died a few months

previously in 2006. The most surprising was possibly the well-dressed man who said he had been a fireman on the very locomotive pulling us, having fired it on countless occasions from London to York and back. He was offered a ride at Kingscote, where they move the engine from one end of the train to the other, but declined due to the suit he was wearing.

On occasion we are delayed due to things beyond our control: a stag ran into the side of the locomotive and was killed, but we had to wait for a forest ranger to come and remove it and on another occasion a herd of about 100 cattle got onto the track and slowly preceded us for some way - until they decided to return the way they had come and slowly passed each side of the train! Recently, we left one passenger behind at Kingscote. This is not the responsibility of a guide but of the party organiser. We had been delayed for 10 minutes waiting for a Stepney Special to arrive, but after leaving the group realised a man was missing. His wife seemed most unconcerned. We do not know where he got to, especially as with us running late there was no excuse. Normally at that time of the year he would have to wait two hours for the next train, but fortunately he was given a lift on the Special shortly after and rejoined his group for fish and chips in the station restaurant.

It is interesting and varied. Who will I meet next week?

Hilary Shepherd

History of Balcombe URC

Driving through the beautiful narrow Wye Valley one year on our way back from our family holiday, we rounded a bend and there in front of us were the ruins of Tintern Abbey. What has that to do with Balcombe URC you may be asking. Our link to Tintern Abbey was through the former building.

In 1896, the former Tintern Abbey tearooms was bought by one Thomas Wells of Lindfield, and some other gentlemen. It was then transported all the way to Balcombe and re erected on the present site, which was also purchased by the aforementioned gentlemen.

Thomas Wells was a staunch non-conformist and not much is known about him, except that he was the first chairman of Lindfield Parish Council.

Nevertheless, the church building, for which it appears that he was the prime instigator, remained in existence for almost one hundred years. Not bad for such a flimsy building with its corrugated iron roof! A brick

front was added in 1968, which may have helped to hold the building together and certainly gave the then congregational church a facelift.

By the time Philip and I and our four children came on the scene, the building was a little the worse for wear to say the least! The roof leaked when it rained and some of the floorboards had rotted. However, surprisingly, it survived the hurricane of 1987, and also our Topz club 7-11 year olds charging back and forth to cries of 'port' or 'starboard' etc. when playing 'Ships' or some other such riotous game.

So what attracted us to the Balcombe United Reformed Church, when we moved to the village in September 1986? The congregation was small and there was then no Sunday School for our young family. The main reason was that we lived in the village, were non conformist by background and believed it right to worship where we lived. Apart from St. Mary's C. of E., this is the only church in the village.

Donald Nisbet's two boys were then aged about four and six, so together with our two youngest, that enabled Philip to start a Sunday School at Balcombe URC. Having heard good reports of Lindfield URC and found that that it had a large congregation, we realised that we could look there for some support, and also provision for our two older children in the 11-14 Sunday evening club. So we were able to support our local church and also take it in turns to go to LURC for the Sunday evening service together with Jonathan and Hilary.

Before our time, some plans for a new building had been drawn up, but nothing had come of it. In order to raise enough funds to build the new building it was necessary to sell off part of the land with planning permission for a house. Philip, being an architect, was soon playing around with ideas for a new building on his drawing board at home, placing the new church at the front of the plot and providing space for a

house at the back. The church meeting liked this scheme, but the District Council would not allow back land development at the time. After some years of negotiating, we were given permission to divide the plot in two, for a plot with planning permission to build a house, and also a church squeezing a house in at the side instead of the back. Not ideal, but that was what was granted, so we went ahead and in August 1995, the old building ended its life and the site was cleared.

By June 1996, the shell of the new building was erected and the church was able to start using it. It was finished in September and officially opened on Saturday 28th September 1996.

We value our link with Lindfield URC, especially the shared pastorate. We also appreciate the support of those members of LURC who from time to time join us for our Sunday morning service and those who help by taking a service for us.

Leonie Wren

Bursary Fund Project, N.T.

Saturday 1st November 2008, 7.30pm in the Church

Copthorne Silver Band and the Perdido Players present a concert to support the Bursary Fund for the Ugandan children whom many of us sponsor through Rev Samuel Muhumuza and the Romans 1:11 Trust.

The children are growing up and are in need of additional funding to help them in senior school and eventually, for some, university.

The Missions Group are eager to raise a sum of money (the Bursary Fund) which would be made available to those with specific educational needs.

Copthorne Silver Band visit us every

year for the Christmas Concert and on this occasion will be playing brass band music and in contrast, the Perdidos will play the music of the big band era. Also, Dawn Walters and John Barling will be singing to entertain us.

Admission is free and there will be a retiring collection at the end of the concert for the Bursary Fund.

Further details will follow but please make a note in your diary and invite your friends to what we hope will be a special and social evening.

Enquiries to Peter Swann or the Missions Group

Best 'out of the office' e-mail replies

Autumn is underway, and it's back to the office and emails.... these may make you smile.

1. I am currently out of the office at a job interview and will reply to you if I fail to get the position. Please be prepared for my mood.
2. You are receiving this automatic notification because I am out of the office. If I was in, chances are you wouldn't have received anything at all.
3. Thank you for your e-mail. Your credit card has been charged £5.99 for the first 10 words and £1.99 for each additional word in your message.
4. Thank you for your message, which has been added to a queuing system. You are currently in 352nd place, and can expect to receive a reply in approximately 19 weeks.

Source: Parish Pump

Church activities

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

- 9.30am Service for all the family, including crèche and Powersource (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

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

A talk by

Jackie March-Hobbs

on Preston Manor in Brighton

Wednesday 17th September at 8pm

King Edward Hall, Lindfield

Admission £1 all welcome.

LINDFIELD CHRISTIAN CARE HOME COMPTON HOUSE

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers serve tea to the Residents from about 2.30 to 4.30 each Saturday. We are very short of helpers from the URC to join the rota.

Do please volunteer if you can!! Please call me on 483539. Mies Campling