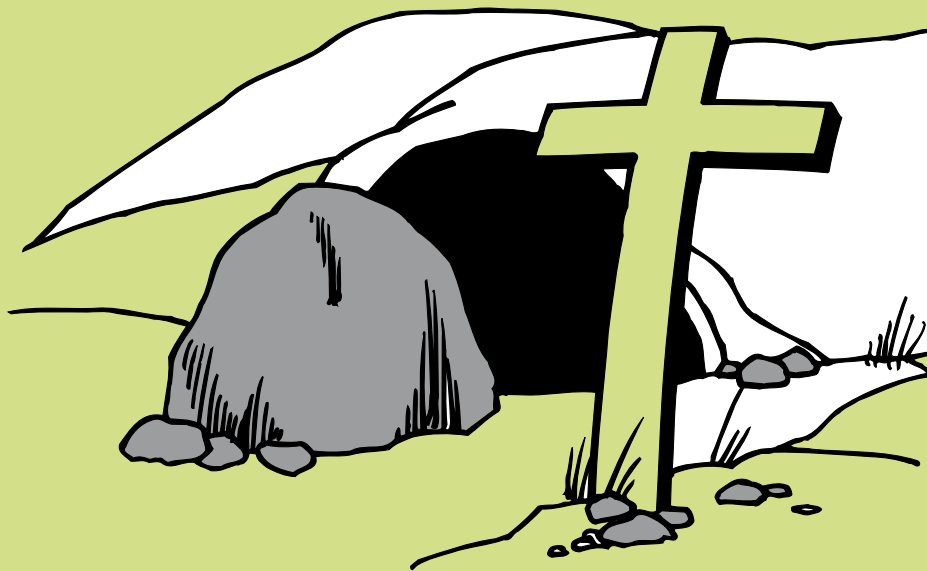


GoodNEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

APRIL 2009

Come and Celebrate!



PLUS...

- Easter – God is with Us
- Charles Martin on a year in Lindfield
- Grow your own veg!

FREE
PLEASE HELP YOURSELF

Messy Church

EASTER
Saturday
April 11th 4:15 PM

Something for Everyone!

Messy Church is a family celebration of Easter at Lindfield United Reformed Church. It is overflowing with art, craft, laughter and mess!
Join us at 4:15pm for an hour of creation and celebration followed by food.

Turn off the TV and the Playstation *[put iPads and Phones on to charge]*
and bring the **whole family** for an afternoon making mess **together!**

Messy Church (0-10 Yrs) is bursting with opportunities to get sticking, exploring, making and creating 'stuff' together with activities for every age and ability *[Even none]*

Media Church (10-14 Yrs) is a chance for cutting, pasting and composing audio, video, animation, bits and bytes into YouTube masterpieces.

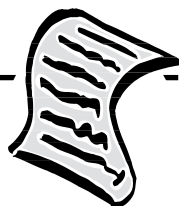
All young people need to **bring a 'grown up'** (or 2) so nag Mum or Dad, grab Granny and text all your friends **CU@MSY CH**
We've got mess waiting for you all. *[Please leave pets at home]*

We even clean up afterwards while you enjoy a meal so Mum gets a night off.

Messy Church takes family, God and getting messy seriously *but not ourselves*
For more information **visit www.lindfieldurc.org.uk**



Dear Friends...



About a dozen years ago I had the privilege of making a trip to the Holy Land. If you have ever had that opportunity, you will know that being in the same places and walking the same streets as Jesus, leaves a deep impression.

Of course I had one or two disconcerting experiences as well. For instance on my way down from Bethany to Jerusalem, following the road Jesus took on Palm Sunday, I had a confrontation with two Arab men when I advised the ladies in our party to beware of thieves. They looked most suspicious and took great exception to my warnings. I found myself pinned against a wall, but my wife came to my rescue. She was magnificent!

So many memories remain with me. The church in the shape of a tear, marking the spot where Jesus wept over the city, the Upper Room where He ate the Last Supper with the Disciples, the Garden of Gethsemane with its resonances of pain and fear, the "Gabbatha" or Stone Pavement, where the Roman soldiers abused our dear Lord, the Via Dolorosa (the way He walked through the old city on Good Friday) all these made a deep impression on me. All the same, nothing equals the feeling I had (and still have as I remember it) of being in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and seeing the spot where (it is believed) Jesus was laid, after being taken down from the cross.

I am an English Protestant and English Protestants are not given to showing emotion, but when I saw that spot, I fell to my knees, kissed the stone slab and wept. All I could think of, was that He had suffered the agony of the cross for me. His sacred body had been laid on that very spot, because He loved me to the end.

By the time you read this, Holy Week will have begun. This year we are going to have a wonderful time of united Easter celebration, with our friends from All Saints and the Evangelical Free Church. We shall rejoice (as we should) at the glory of the resurrection morning, but let's never forget that each one of us was in God's mind when Jesus died in our place. As Peter Marshall (the Scots-American preacher) once put it ...

"...and every sin was in a nail, or a thorn, or a spear."

Whose sins were they? **They were yours and mine.**

God bless you this Easter !

Your Pastor and friend,

Charles S. Martin

GoodNEWS

Produced by: Lindfield United Reformed Church,
50 High Street, Lindfield, West Sussex RH16 2HL.
© Lindfield URC 2009

Editorial Team: Val Cookney (editor), Jacqui Adams,
Martin Hall, Carol and Stuart Marsh.

Editorial Oversight / Proof-reading: Helen Hall/
Stuart and Carol Marsh

Printing: Tom Burford, Steven Farley
and Sureprint Litho

Next copydate: Sunday 12th April, 5pm.

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

Directory



Pastor: Rev. Charles Martin

Church Secretaries:

Mrs Sue Waller
58 Queens Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 1EE
Tel: 01444 455047
Email: susanwaller@lineone.net

Mr David Jones
13 William Allen Lane, Lindfield, RH16 2SA
Tel: 01444 483037
Email: dlandfc13wal@talktalk.net

Church Treasurer and Accountant:

Mrs. Eileen Jacques,
23 Canton House, Great Heathmead,
Haywards Heath. RH16 1FD

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

Editorial



I begin to write this just after coming back from church where David Jones has talked about GRACE. I was reminded that Easter is about Almighty God giving up his most precious and beloved Son to die for me so that I may daily come and sit and be in the very presence of my Creator. What extravagant Love and Grace that is.

Jenny Martin writes about Jesus our 'Saviour and elder brother' suffering for us and in so doing suffering with us in our dark and painful times. We are not alone in our suffering, God is with us. That is an incredible thought, and again what amazing Grace.

Charles, in his Minister's letter talks about his visit to the Holy Land and seeing the place where Jesus was buried. He writes... 'all I could think of was that he suffered the agony of the cross for me.'

The Mission focus this month is on Romania and Casaid. There we see people living out God's Grace to others as they serve the Roma communities.

We have folks from the church talking about their hobbies and we have all the usual news and reminders.

May the thrill of God's Extravagant Grace be ours this Easter.

Val

Prayer **FOCUS**



Prayer can of course be about small things, even so-called trivia, as we have a conversation with our heavenly Father. Whatever the scale of the topics we choose for prayer, God knows our heart and our motivation. Prayer is an integral part of our walk with the Lord, so let's take a brief look at some of the prayers recorded in scripture associated with Easter.

The Journey

On his way to Jerusalem, Jesus was asked a favour by a mother on behalf of her sons (Matthew 20:20-24). Her request was not granted and the disciples of Jesus became indignant at the sons. The mother's request came from the knowledge of her sons' situation, of being subject to the authority of officials. Something the disciples did not initially understand. The mother wanted to improve her sons' status, but rather made her sons' relationship with the disciples more complicated. Her (prayer) request confirmed that while she recognised Jesus as King, she did not understand the nature of his kingdom.

Two blind men sitting by the roadside shouted their prayer for help as Jesus with his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho (Matthew 20:29-34). The men persisted despite the disapproval of the crowd. Jesus heard them and knowing their hearts and motivation answered their prayer. Their sight was restored and they no longer sat by the road side, but followed Jesus.

Coming from Bethany, Jesus having seen a fig tree with no fruit amazed his disciples as they saw how fast it withered at his command (Matthew 21:18-22). Jesus then taught them about the relationship of faith with prayer.

So prayer is not only part of our walk or journey, it's related to our knowledge, our faith and our fruit.

The Garden

When Jesus went to the garden of Gethsemane he left most of his disciples sitting to wait for him. Jesus went to another part of the garden to pray and took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee (James and John whose mother had asked the favour of Jesus) (Matthew 26:36-44). Alone Jesus prayed three times, in the full knowledge of what was before him. Praying to his father knowing what lay ahead, he prayed 'not as I will, but as you will', 'may your will be done'.

Jesus knew God's will but his prayer was that it would be fulfilled despite his personal consequence. There is only one word for his action - Love.

As we pray over the Easter period why not take a fresh look at the message of Easter, especially with regard to how our approach to prayer can bring a deeper understanding of God's purposes and our walk with Him.

Henderson McEwan

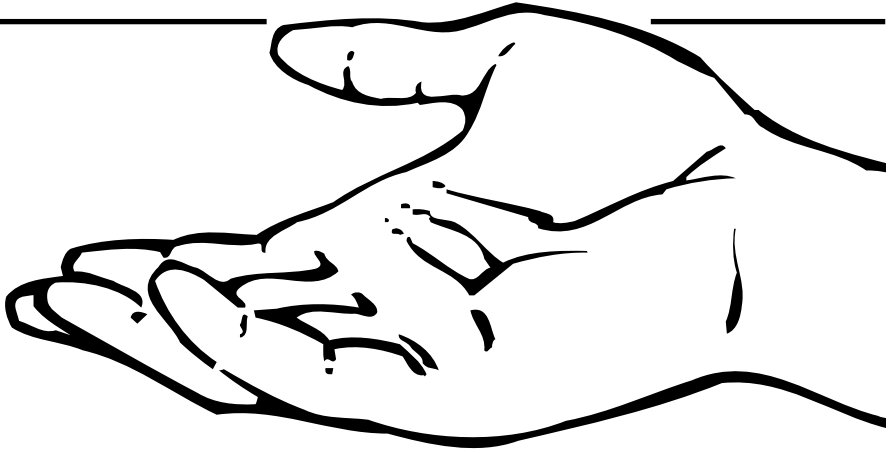
Whose Hand?

At Easter time it is very important to understand not only the theology of the crucifixion and Atonement [Christ bearing my sins on the cross and reconciling me to God], but the theology of the Incarnation [Christ becoming human] as well.

This is because it is very easy to have a mental picture of a stern God sitting up in heaven, and sending down His only son to be crucified. In fact, some people in the past have said to me ‘how could a good and loving God send his only son to suffer such pain and anguish when mere human fathers would never do such a thing?’ The New Testament writers, however, make it very plain that this is not what is happening at the crucifixion. Paul says in 2 Corinthians chapter five verse 19 [J B Phillips] ‘God was in Christ *personally* reconciling the world to Himself – not counting their sins against them.’ In other

words, apart, possibly from the period covered by the cry of dereliction, [‘My God why have you forsaken me?’] God in some mysterious way was also being crucified. He was a participant not a dispassionate onlooker.

This total identification of God with Christ is a wonderfully consoling doctrine for the Christian, for what applies to Christ and God, also applies to Christ and the Christian. Very often we feel, when we are called upon to wrestle with some mental or physical suffering or temptation, that God is up in heaven observing us just to see how we are going to react to this time of trial. This is especially true where we don’t seem to get an answer to our prayers for release, or when well meaning Christian friends loom over our sick beds and blithely tell us that when we are better we shall understand why God has personally sent us this time of suffering and testing.



But this perceived disengagement of God with the Christian is not correct, for the Bible teaches that Christ, our Saviour and elder brother is actually suffering with us. The first step to understanding this can be seen in chapter 2 of Hebrews where the writer clearly explains that Christ fully took our humanity, so knows exactly what pain and suffering and temptation feel like. This firsthand experience of pain was particularly acute on the cross. Furthermore, He still has his human nature in heaven so continues to understand the experience of pain and suffering firsthand. But the Bible goes farther than this. Even in the Old Testament, Isaiah, that sublime Old Testament theologian, says in chapter 63 verse 9 [NIV] 'in all their distress He too was distressed and the angel of his presence saved them.' Jesus however, goes further than this when He describes the most

intimate indwelling not only of God and Himself, but of the Christian and Himself. In John 14 verse 20 He says 'on that day you will realise that I am in the Father, and you are in Me and I am in you.' This is no detached, celestial observer that He is describing, but a God who experiences with us, through Christ, every over stimulated nerve ending and each minute of our mental anguish. What a wonderful thing!

Some years ago, during one of my many long bouts of back pain I wrote the following poem explaining this Easter insight. In those days the treatment of slipped discs was bed rest for weeks on end and you will see as you read, that I was very fed up with the pain and monotony, and the well meaning friends who informed me that this was a test sent by God and that afterwards I would understand why!

Jenny Martin

Whose Cross?

I don't like this cross Lord!
Why did you put me here?
Why should I suffer,
While the rest of mankind plays games?

I resent the long torture of loneliness,
High up on this comfortless spar,
And the irritating, dull-witted pain
Sucking each cell.
And the view!
Boredom – grey skies and the monotony of surroundings
Known in too familiar detail.

Do you get pleasure
Seeing your flesh and blood suffer?
I shouldn't treat my little ones so,
Piercing their bodies like specimen butterflies.
Their feet.....

But, that isn't my hand I see high on the cross piece.
It's too strong, and it's already been wounded.
It's your hand, you're suffering frame
Identified with mine,
Re –routing my momentary suffering through your body,
To climax in my earthly gain,
And a weight of eternal glory!

2008 The Blakes' Annus Horribilis

Was it really? On recalling the year we might be forgiven for thinking so! These are the things that happened and their consequences.

The year started serenely enough, until the 27th of February. Whilst Ann and I were washing the lunch dishes, from out of the window I saw our neighbour's large oak tree falling towards our kitchen window. Just time to yell 'flat' and we fell to the floor! There was a mighty crash, then quiet. We got up, unhurt, dusted ourselves off and then ran like scalded cats out of the front door. Soon we were surrounded by concerned neighbours, then the firemen, paramedics, police and of course, the Press.

This could be a long story but suffice to say we were well looked after by family and friends – and even the insurance company. They found us a hotel in which to stay for 17 days and then an apartment in Hayward's Heath. After much debate and repairs our home was ready and we thankfully returned there on the 5th of September.

In November Ann's favourite brother Gavin died, he was a man, full of faith.

And then in early December, yours truly managed to have a heart attack that necessitated triple heart by-pass surgery. Thankfully I am now well on the mend. This is due to the skill and unstinting care of surgeons, doctors and nurses. I give three cheers for the NHS. Through all this waiting for the operation, the operation itself, and the post operative recovery, I was somehow at 'ease' with the events, I felt at peace. Where did that come from? For myself, undoubtedly, the prayers and practical support of the family, the Church family and many friends.

Depend upon it, the God whom we worship, is in Jesus, there for us. The day of miracles is not over!

I finish with this sustaining verse from Deuteronomy 33. 27. AV.

'The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.'

John Blake

Our Mission Weekend with Dave Garrard

It's always good to hear what God is doing in other parts of the world particularly one that we've not heard that much about at LURC. It can also be very challenging because, if we're honest, we don't see that much happening in our community, in the UK or indeed in Europe. I heard someone recently refer to Europe as 'The Dark Continent'. That used to be Africa!

It was great to hear Dave speak about Ethiopia, a country he has visited several times in his role of UK Director with Central African Missions. Throughout the country thousands are coming to Christ and the preaching of God's Word is followed by miracles where physical healings are almost expected as part of the norm. So often when people become Christians there they can expect persecution both from the community and from their own families so it is not a decision that can be taken lightly. Jesus told us to 'count the cost' then take up our cross. The cost for us is nowhere near as great as those in Ethiopia and one cannot help wondering if this is why the church here has become weak and ineffective.

Dave also referred to the constant prayer that precedes the work of the Holy Spirit whether that be in conversions, miracles or guidance about where to plant the next church. So often we in the West want everything to happen instantly without doing what the early church did – devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread and PRAYER. There are no short cuts!

We were also challenged in our 11 o'clock service to ensure that our love for God and our service for Him is top priority. In our 9.30 service we were reminded that as Christians and disciples of Jesus we have been given 'the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven'. Whilst there has been much debate over the meaning of these words of Jesus it is clear that, as we share the Gospel – the Good News of Jesus, the Kingdom is unlocked and people have the opportunity to enter in by faith. This then is an awesome responsibility.

Ron Goodenough

Romania and Cascaid

On Sunday, 26th April we welcome our old friend, Dr Dickie Twort, from Catford, to our morning services to bring the latest news from Cascaid and in particular the Romanian Christian Charity, Hannah, which we shall be supporting with our Mission giving this month. Run by Misu and Livia Ciobanu in the north eastern town of Radauti (visited by Ron and John back in 2001) Hannah runs projects to help the poor and elderly, as well as young people with educational classes, a Pupil Sponsorship Scheme, regular conferences and summer camps. Support for the Roma community and village church, started by Papa, continues as the Lord builds His church in that area.

For more information see the Missions display in the church concourse or visit www.hannah.cascaid.org.uk

John

Katie Cookney and her team will be returning to the U.K. on Sunday 5th April.

After a few days at home they will be back to Birmingham for about 2 weeks planning and preparation for their 2 month tour.

This tour means that they will be spending a week in 8 different churches around the country, including Lindfield URC in the week of 11th May. More information will follow about their itinerary. Please do continue to prayer for the team. They are very aware of your prayers and thank God for you and your support.

tearfund

Tearfund Area Support Meeting

Tuesday 28th April, 8.00pm at All Saints Lindfield
(Tearcraft goods and Coffee will be available from 7.30pm)

Ian Roberts, Tearfund's South East Area Manager will be with us to bring up-to-date information of the work. He will particularly highlight the '**Make Life Flow**' initiative to provide clean water and proper sanitation for the millions who have no access to these basic needs.

The meeting will be both informative and inspiring.
There will also be opportunity for prayer and we look forward to seeing a good number joining us.

Easter services at the three Lindfield churches

Maundy Thursday - April 9th

8.00pm **URC United Holy Communion**

Preacher: Canon James Clarke.

Good Friday - April 10th

9.30am **United Walk of Witness led by the Cross**

We will assemble on Hickmans Recreation Ground at 9.30am and walk up the High Street, following a Cross, to All Saints Church, where we will share a united service. We want everyone to know the extent of God's love, in sending His Son to bear the penalty for human sin. Jesus was ready to endure the agony of crucifixion, so that every man, woman and child could have the chance of spending eternity with God.

10.15am **All Saints United Service**

12 noon **All Saints Service of meditation on the Cross**

Saturday - April 11th

4.15pm **URC Messy Church**

An active time for all ages in the family to share together in a time of creativity and celebration of Easter, followed by a meal.

Easter Sunday - April 12th

6.00am **Sunrise Service at Ardingly Reservoir**

The first disciples discovered that Jesus had risen from the dead, very early on the first Easter Sunday, while it was still dark. We want to share the thrill of celebrating His resurrection for ourselves in just the same way - at sunrise on Easter Day. We will gather in the car-park at Ardingly Reservoir at 6.00am. The sun is due to rise at 6.11am and we will share a short service of praise to celebrate our Saviour's victory.

8.00am **All Saints Easter Communion**

9.30am **All Saints All-age Easter Worship (not communion)**



9.30am **URC Family Worship**
Preacher: Revd. Charles Martin

10.30am **LEFC Easter Family Service**

11.00am **URC Morning Worship & Holy Communion**
Preacher: Revd. Charles Martin

11.15am **Easter Communion at All Saints**

6.30pm **URC United Easter Celebration and Songs of Praise**

We would like to invite everyone to share in a united act of worship at the United Reformed Church at 6.30pm, so that we can conclude our Easter celebrations together.

In addition, **Lindfield URC** has the **Ashdown singers**:

“Requiem”, Duruflé

8th April at 7.30pm

At Lindfield United Reformed Church.

Free Entry (Retiring collection)

...and at **All Saints' Church, Lindfield Tiger Arts** presents:

Bach's St. John Passion

Good Friday, (10 April) at 7.30pm

Tickets: Adults £10 (including refreshments).

Concessions £8, children £5

Available from the Church Office (01444 482405) and by post.

Women's World Day of Prayer

The service was held on March 6th and the theme of it was 'In Christ there are many members yet one body'. It was prepared by the Christian Women of Papua New Guinea. It gave us a real insight into the lives of the people there, and the many problems with which they are faced. Our speaker was Rev. Jean Sedgley and she gave three very different examples of how life can be in various situations, bearing out the message of the theme.

It was a very inspiring service; to think that we here in Lindfield are linked with our fellow Christian women, all over the world, sharing the same service.

May I take this opportunity to say that after some twenty years on the Committee, representing this church, I feel it is time for somebody else to take my place. It is not an onerous job; we only have one Committee meeting in the early part of the year to arrange the service. There is more to do when you are the Host Church, but that was this year, and will not come round again till 2012. I am happy to discuss this with any one who is interested.

Winifred Scopes

Bereavement

Yet another unexpected death has saddened our Church Family. **Paul Porter** died in February. Our love and sympathy go out to Gladys and her family. The full church for Paul's thanksgiving service was an indication of the love and respect with which he was held by so many.

The Fellowship

Our meeting this month is our **Charity Tea**, and on this occasion our chosen Charity is '**Anchor – Staying Put**'. We welcome as our speaker **Amanda Edmond** who will tell us of the work done by this organization.

The date of the meeting is **Wednesday 22nd April** and there will be a Bring and Buy Stall. We extend a very warm welcome to all friends, old and new.

Dear Friends,

During my working life I was called upon to write many letters but I never found one so difficult as this one, for I cannot find words which adequately express my gratitude for the way in which you have all upheld me during the most difficult period of my life.

I have been overwhelmed by all the cards, letters, flowers and offers of help etc.

God was at work too. I felt this from the moment Charles appeared at the hospital seemingly like minutes after Andrew died, and he stayed with me until my children arrived. Later, when I had to arrange a funeral fitting for my beloved husband Charles and Mike were towers of strength, and when I started thinking about catering Barbara Shepherd arrived saying "Don't worry about food, our house group have it all in hand." Another example of this was when I awoke in the middle of the night and realised I had done nothing about flowers for the church. Early the

In Touch

Tuesday, April 28th at 7.45pm

We have entitled our evening "*I didn't get where I am today without....*".

We are hoping that the ladies are prepared to share an experience that has changed their lives, eg. Family, coincidence or spiritual.

All ladies are welcome to what we expect will be an interesting evening.

next morning Betty Billins telephoned saying "Don't worry about flowers, I will do them I am only telephoning to see if Andrew had any favourites. When I am arranging them I always think of the person they are for." What a lovely thought, they must have been really good thoughts on this occasion because the flowers were beautiful. Norma arrived as soon as she got back from Nottingham, and you all know what a great help she is in time of trouble.

Chris Comber played just the right sort of music and many of my friends commented on it. My thanks also go out to Hilary Shepherd for so beautifully singing the Lord's Prayer. Dennis, another good friend of us both, arranged for my family to be transported home after the service.

Please forgive me if I have omitted to name you all. It would be an impossible task, so I will just say a big "Thank you" to all members of my Church Family.

God Bless you all. *Gladys Muir*

April church diary

2nd

Thursday 10.30am Coffee followed by
& 7.30pm Christianity Explored

4th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at URC

5th

Sunday 9.30am Charles Martin-
Communion
11.00am Charles Martin
6.30pm David Goodchild

8th

Wednesday 12.30 Lunch Fellowship
7.30pm **Easter Concert –
Ashdown Singers**

9th Maundy Thursday

8.00pm Joint Service with
Communion

10th Good Friday

10.00am Walk of Witness
followed by Service
at All Saints

11th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at URC
4.15pm **Messy Church
Day** – watch
for times and
information.

12th Easter Sunday

6.00am **Sunrise Service
at Ardingly
Reservoir**
9.30am Charles Martin

11.00am Charles Martin -
Communion

6.30pm United Songs of
Praise Service

14th

Tuesday Group Away at Spring Harvest

17th

Friday 12.30 Lunch Fellowship

18th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at URC

19th

Sunday 10.30am Joint Service Mike
Gardiner
6.30pm David Jones

22nd

Wednesday 2.45pm Afternoon Fellowship

23rd

Thursday 8.00pm Church Prayer
Meeting

25th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at URC

26th

Sunday 9.30am Mission with Dr
Dickie Twort
11.00am Dr Dickie Twort &
Communion
6.30pm Ron Goodenough

28th

Tuesday 7.45pm In Touch
– 8.00pm

Balcombe United Reformed Church



Bramble Hill, Balcombe, RH17 6HR.
Contact: Mrs Leonie Wren (01444 811253)

Our services are held weekly at 10.30am.
 Visitors are welcome to join us.
Speakers for this month are as follows:-

- 5th Glynn Philips
- 12th EASTER DAY – Join with LURC
- 19th Philip Wren
- 26th Charles Martin – COMMUNION SERVICE

OTHER LOCAL EVENTS LISTED ON BACK COVER

FlowerRota



Arranging

Distributing

April

5th	Mary Comber	Jacqueline Wood
12th	Easter Sunday	Barbara Shepherd
19th	Anne Parker	Margaret Gomme
26th	Serena Nathan	Kay Phillpot

May

3rd	Fiona Tingley	Jo Bloxham
10th	Boys Brigade	Iris Bingham
17th	Audrey Saunders	Heather Swann
24th	Wedding Flowers	Sue Tester
31st	Barbara Shepherd	Jacqueline Wood

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.

Hobbies and interests

We have asked some members of the church to write a bit about their hobbies and interests. So thank you to Margaret, Jo and Brian for their contributions.

Passion for Patchwork



Patchwork has taken a hold on me. Every chance I have is taken up with this new interest. Being a novice I've lots to learn from classes and from other more experienced quilters. We meet together as a group in each other's homes, when not in class, to share our ideas, knowledge and also importantly food! There's a language of quilting that has been intriguing and mystifying for me, with terms such as quilting in the-ditch or as-you-go, or when buying fat quarters, charm packs, batting, sashing and jelly rolls to know which choices to make! There's so much more to learn and I'm looking forward to it. Meeting together is fun and always very encouraging. A poem about patchwork given to my mother by Gwen Holmes when they both lived at Buxshalls comes to mind. Perhaps you too may find it encouraging.

Jo Bloxham

God's Patchwork

I'm going to make a patchwork quilt
I'm looking through the pieces.
They've been saved up for many years
By sisters, daughters, nieces,
And all my old bits, treasured
Because they bring to mind
Lots of happy memories of days long left behind
Wedding days and christenings,
Anniversaries too.
Colours of the rainbow
Yellow, pink and blue,
Red and purple, brown and orange
Gold and silver, green and white
Spots and stripes and floral patterns
Mixed together, dark and light.
It's the picture of a lifetime
Happiness and sorrow too
Sunshine, shadows, laughter, tears,
What a lot we all go through.
So I'll trim and shape the pieces
Then think out a good design
Work it firmly with small stitches
To complete this quilt of mine.
This is how God shapes our lives
Each woman, child and man.
This is why He made us different
For He has a perfect plan.
All He asks us is to love Him
And to love our neighbour too
Then He'll fit us in His pattern,
There's a place for me and you.

Gwen Holmes

Hobbies and interests

My crafting days started in the 1980's when I used to unwind after work doing cross-stitch pictures. Eventually I ran out of walls on which to hang my works of art, so I started making greetings cards for family and friends. I found as I got older that cross-stitch was hard on my eyes so I looked for something with less detail.

It was about the time when paper crafting was becoming popular, so I went to craft fairs and attended classes at one of the local craft shops.

I first did quilling, I then discovered the ease and beauty of rubber stamps.

More and more tools and techniques came on the market and I was in my element.

I made cards for family and friends but had many spare so I decided through the Lindfield URC to sell them for charity, firstly for Tearfund then Worthing Churches Homeless Projects because these were two honest charities where I knew the money was going straight to the people who needed it. Whenever I send them a cheque I get a lovely letter of appreciation and so far I have raised over £700.

I have some regular customers but if anyone would like to see what I make I would be happy to bring a selection to their homes. I especially like to make a card for a particular person or occasion so please let me know if I can be of help.

Margaret Gomme

Whirlwind

by Cathy Marie Hake

I have recently read this captivating Christian novel, a gift I received at Christmas, and I'd like to recommend it to you.

The story begins with Millicent Fairweather, a Nanny, hearing the news that the two much loved girls that she has been caring for are to be sent off to boarding school, so her services are longer required. So Millicent sets off for pastures new with her Sister and Brother-in-law, to set up their own business in America. During the long and difficult journey by boat, life takes an unexpected turn for the young Nanny, and she finds herself looking after a toddler for his recently widowed Father. What follows is all very intriguing, with various twists and turns to the story, where two Christians from very different backgrounds are brought together. There is sadness, misunderstandings, coincidence, anxiety, romance and a real mixture of emotions bound up in this book, which, I am glad to say, does have a happy ending. I found it was one of those books I just longed to know what was going to happen next – it certainly holds you in suspense in places! ISBN No. 978 0 7642 0319 0

Fiona Tingley

Concerning the Spiritual in Art

As a committed (albeit flawed) Christian, I find attending church for **adivine worship and fellowship both challenging and comforting.** I have been told that you do not have to be a churchgoer to be a Christian. Some people are astonished when I tell them that for me (and millions of others) attending church re-charges otherwise empty spiritual batteries. While this may be true, I have also found myself transformed towards God beyond the confines of church structures. To be specific, this happened twice when calling into art galleries before visiting one of my sons who has secondary cancer. Pete, who has called himself "a dedicated atheist", had a six kilo lump removed from his stomach after Christmas.

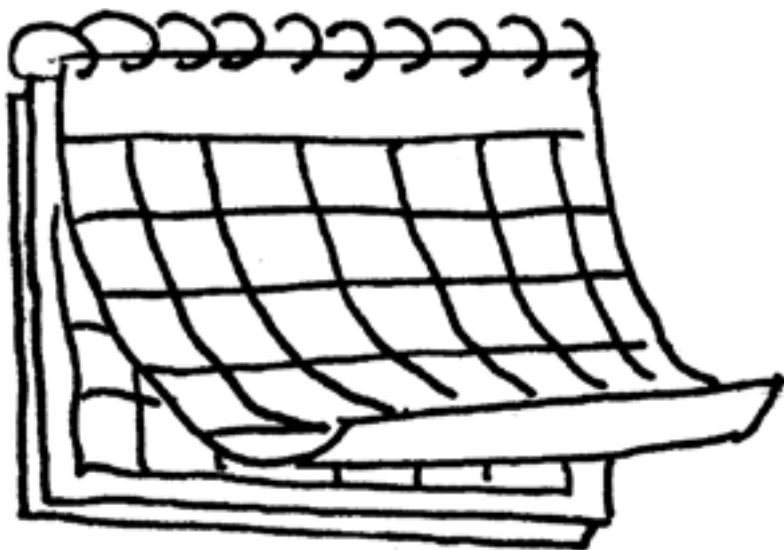
On my way to University College Hospital, earlier this year, I called into the Tate Modern. Initially, I attended a retrospective show of works by the American Abstract Expressionist, Mark Rothko. Rothko's large paintings evoked moods through colour and were absorbing. However, nothing prepared me for the impact of an exhibition of pieces by the veteran contemporary Brazilian artist Cildo Meireles. His work was entirely new to me and transformed me as I responded to his creativity in an unforgettable way. I had not expected to be so profoundly moved by his works, but I was.

More recently, I visited the Tate Britain and called in to see the exhibition of works by Sir Anthony Van Dyck. The famous 17th century Flemish born artist who settled in England and influenced subsequent developments in British painting. The exhibition, which continues until 17th May, includes some stunning examples of Van Dyck's mastery of portraiture. Before leaving the gallery, I came across an almost empty room with a small selection of familiar works by William Blake juxtaposed with pieces by the late Cecil Collins. Collins was, like Blake, a poet, painter and philosopher who developed a personal visual language to explore spiritual insights. I enjoyed the Van Dyck paintings, but the Blake/Collins show, like the earlier Meireles exhibition, had a more lasting impact upon me and helped to re-charge my batteries.

Incidentally, my son's operation was successful and he is coping well with chemotherapy.

Brian Tuppen

A Year in Lindfield



The Editor has asked me to share my impressions, now that I have almost come to the end of my first year as your Pastor. I am happy to do so, but what worries me, are the impressions I have created amongst the inhabitants of Lindfield. For instance, when I bought some dry-roasted peanuts and two bottles of Pepsi Max recently, one of the lovely ladies who serves in Somerfield commented "So that's your favourite is it – peanuts and pop?!" What a reputation!

It's a great place to live and you have made us so welcome. Thank-you. "Ryecroft" is the oldest and biggest house we have ever lived in and it can be bewildering at times. Most of the upper floors are uneven and some slope alarmingly. Getting up in the middle of the night to answer the call of nature, can feel like being in a ship on the high seas. You lurch along the landing and you have to take care to end up in the bathroom rather than the airing cupboard!

Of course we are really grateful for the fact that the



house has five bedrooms and two bathrooms (as well as the afore-mentioned airing cupboard, which happens to be the biggest in Europe) because it has allowed us to offer a home to my older son and his family, while they are between houses and plans are being made to plant a church.

Both Jenny and I love Lindfield as a village, because everyone has made us so welcome. Whenever we leave the house, someone seems to be there to give us a cheery wave or a smile or a kind word. Of course the merriment of the patrons of the Stand-Up Inn can be somewhat overwhelming. After midnight in the summer, when the pub doors are open (as is my bedroom window) and the volume of the latest folk music aficionado is clearly designed to be heard in Lewes, I could wish I was back in sleepy Beaconsfield, but I just

tell myself it's free entertainment!

And the church? I have to pinch myself that at the end of my ministry, God has called me to such a wonderful and committed group of Christians. It's such a joy to have other people leading worship and the prospect of opening the Baptistery is thrilling. So much is being done by so many folk. The close relationship with the other churches is such an encouragement. I only wish I could have come here before.

So – are we pleased to be here? You bet we are! Even if it's only for a few short years, thank you Lord for bringing us to Lindfield.

*Your Pastor –
Charles S. Martin*

Ready, Steady, Grow Your Own Veg!

Why grow your own?

- Home grown veg taste far better than the supermarket offerings.
- You can grow many more varieties that you can't find in the shops.
- You know where they've been and that they are not genetically modified or been sprayed with potentially dangerous chemicals.

How can you grow them?

From seed: especially carrots, mixed salad crops, spinach and starting off beans.

From plugs: as they are pre-germinated, success is almost guaranteed! This is becoming the more popular way.

What to grow?

- Broad Beans are ideal for early cropping - try Aquadulce.
- French Beans: climbing "Blue Lake" is a productive variety.
- Runner Beans: the best yield per footage - grow in a row, against a wall or fence or up a wigwam. Plant a couple of different varieties three to four weeks apart for picking from July to October - freeze after blanching for year round eating.
- Brassicas: lime the soil and keep it firm; net to protect from birds.
- Broccoli: Calabrese for Autumn into Winter cropping. Purple Sprouting for Spring, a heavy cropper and easy to grow.
- Cabbage: grow different varieties for year round cropping. You may find that Brussels Sprouts and Cauliflowers do not perform particularly well if you have heavy clay soil.
- Courgettes: need lots of well-rotted manure and grow quite rampantly.
- Cucumbers: either grow "Telegraph" or similar in a greenhouse or "Perfection" outdoors.
- Leeks/Onions: can be grown at any time.



- Peppers: these are the same family as tomatoes, but for best results grow sweet or chilli varieties in the greenhouse.
- Potatoes: now's the time to 'chit' your favourite early or main crop varieties on a window sill before planting in a barrel or in rows, ridging up as leaves appear to protect from late frosts.
- Tomatoes: so many varieties to choose from - even stripey "Tigarella" ones if you can get over the physiochemical barrier of eating them! Particularly useful are mini-tomatoes which look attractive trailing out of hanging baskets or troughs - they are sweet and tasty as well.

You don't have to have a large garden or allotment to enjoy regular fresh pickings. Most of the vegetables described, except Brassicas, will grow well in containers provided they are in a good multi-purpose compost and are fed and watered regularly.

There are, of course, other vegetables that space has precluded me from mentioning, but I have a more complete guide if anyone wants one.

All the fresh air and exercise that you get from growing your own will add to the satisfaction you feel when you eat them. It's fun and a definite health benefit as well as an inexpensive way of beating the economic slump!

Stuart Marsh

Next time: **'Rock on!' (Alpine and Rockery Plants)**

Boys' Brigade

In a certain region of the UK, the BB was recently inspected by HM Inspectorate of Schools – probably because it was receiving some public funding, and somebody wanted to ensure that the taxpayer was getting value for money. Their report was on the whole quite favourable, but at the end they made one criticism: the BB was doing lots of excellent work, but hardly anyone knew about it – it should blow its own trumpet more!

I am not going to make any apology for blowing the trumpet of the BB in Lindfield: the community has the immense privilege of having a BB Company, and it is doing great work. A simple list of the things we are doing tells its own story:

Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions – the assessor said he had not yet come across such a well prepared Bronze level expedition group as that formed by our Boys last autumn; a fine drum corps; the new up to date programmes for Company Section (12+) members; well organised games and sports. Special events during the last few months have included a night hike, and participation in badminton competitions at Oathall (our 11 – 14 team came second), while the majority of our Company Section lads took part in a sponsored overnight stay on the church premises, playing games, to raise money for a Wii (I had no idea what a Wii is, but the Boys tell me it is an internet computer game).

Ahead of us lies the Company Display on Friday 8th May, to which all are welcome, and our fantastic camp at Glynde in the summer holidays, which Boys are eagerly looking forward to attending. We also plan other adventurous activity for our Seniors. There is also a service for the youth of the church on Sunday 29th March, which will count as a parade service for the Boys. Whilst writing, I would also like to mention that we will again have a stall on Village Day, for which we would welcome donations of saleable items (please forgive me for saying so, but the emphasis has to be on "saleable").

The BB is very much alive and well, and spot on for Boys: if you have a Boy in your family of BB age, encourage him to join us – we can promise him a great experience.

Geoffrey Cocksedge

Brenda tells us about her working holiday at Lee Abbey maybe others may like to do a similar holiday this year

Lee Abbey

Last October (2008) I was privileged to spend a few days at the Christian Holiday Conference Centre in North Devon. Lee Abbey is set in a wonderful location on the coast, set apart from any town or village and is a place where anyone can go to seek physical, mental and spiritual renewal. The house provides many different themed courses throughout the year for adults or families or children in the youth centre or even a summer camp in August for those who wish to live under canvas for a while.

I had decided to join the estate working party, which is held twice a year, because I just love being outdoors. There were about forty-five of us divided into different groups according to our abilities. We could choose which to join such as logging in the woods, restoring an adventure playground, gardening, painting benches or making bird boxes. I opted to go with the gardeners which provided plenty of scope from hacking back and pruning to working with tubs and hanging baskets. The routine was that we worked in the morning with a half hour break for coffee then in the afternoon we were free to do our own thing or join in a group walk before afternoon tea and cake at 4.30pm.

At 5 o'clock there were one or two workshops such as making birthday cards or singing or just time to sit in the lovely library quietly and read or look out of the bay window down to the sea. I tended to walk on my own during this time, going up to the Valley of the Rocks ¼ mile away up the road to enjoy the scenery where the Exmoor ponies and wild goats graze or walk around the estate which is a working farm that has sheep and cattle plus many acres of woodland and of course its own beach. The evening meal was followed by a meeting for everyone whether on the working party or seminars, a fairly light hearted entertainment; on one evening there was a concert given by some of the many international young people who were working there for a time. The day ended by a quiet time in the chapel for those who wanted to unwind to some quiet music and a few reflective verses to meditate and give thanks to God for the opportunities the day had given and the blessings of spending just a few days at Lee Abbey. I have decided to return this year and should you be interested and wish to know more please ask me or look on the website www.leeabbey.org.uk.

Brenda Johnson

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN KENT (CTK)

Experienced Researcher/Development Officer

Churches Together in Kent (CTK)* is seeking to appoint a part-time Christian Researcher/Development Officer for two days per week from the 5th May 2009, on a one year contract.

Job Description

In co-operation with the CTK church leaders, the successful candidate will undertake research to determine the current issues and opportunities for collaborative mission between Christians in Kent. This will require co-operation with the CTK church leaders, and the use of appropriate and effective consultative practices and processes with Churches Together groups, denominational Ecumenical Officers, CTK Council, representatives of other churches in Kent, those engaged ecumenically in specific church-based projects and relevant secular agencies, etc. This radical review of ecumenical working is needed to establish a fresh vision and new strategies for Christians in Kent and Medway to help us engage in effective mission together.

At each stage of the research project, the brief will be determined and agreed in consultation with CTK. CTK will appoint a Line Manager. It is expected that the successful candidate will facilitate relevant workshops/seminars within the year.

Candidate Specification

Practising Christian, experienced and committed to helping Christians work effectively together in mission.

The appropriate research/ development experience and skills necessary given the diverse context of existing scenarios and ecumenical relationships.

Self motivated, timely and proactive. Able to reflect theologically and ecumenically with relevant organisational, reporting, and IT skills. Effective spoken and written communication skills.

Prepared to work flexible hours as required.

Car driver / or able to make own arrangements for transport around the county

Salary

£8,500 per annum, plus appropriate expenses, on the basis of working two days (minimum 14hrs) per week. Statutory holidays (currently 9.6 days) will be included in the package and the salary will be paid in arrears at the end of each month.

Apply Now

To apply for this exciting opportunity please send your CV (including evidence of research skills) to The Reverend Nigel Uden, Chair of CTK, Synod Office, East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon, CO 5LP by 15th April 2009.

Interviews will be held in Kent on Monday 20th April 2009. If you have any queries about the vacancy please contact Nigel Uden on 020 8688 3730 or moderator@urcsouthern.org.uk

* Within the County of Kent, the Medway Unitary Authority, and the London Boroughs of Bexley and Bromley, we are the organisation supported by the Baptist, Church of England, Methodist, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), Roman Catholic, Salvation Army, and United Reformed Churches to:

- sponsor Local Ecumenical Partnerships between the Christian denominations;
- provide information exchange (Newsletter, advice, etc), and
- be the formal link between local Christian/Churches Together groups and the national organisation which is Churches Together in England
- be the formal church link to "county" wide groups (Police, Media, Regional Government, etc)

The Right Reverend Dr Brian Castle - Bishop of Tonbridge (CofE), Major Anthony Cotterill (Salvation Army); The Right Reverend Graham Cray (CofE), The Reverend John Hellyer (Methodist), The Right Reverend John Hine – Bishop for Kent (Roman Catholic), The Reverend Stuart Davidson (Baptist), The Reverend Nigel Uden (United Reformed Church) and The Right Reverend Dr Stephen Venner – Bishop of Dover (CofE)

Church activities

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

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

Ray Smith 01444 484427

Zest Co-ordinator:

Clare Nibloe 01444 484683

Lighthouse (Junior church)

Co-ordinator:

Dawn Walters 01444 441601



Concert

Requiem

Maurice Duruflé

Wednesday 8th April 2009, 7.30pm

Lindfield United Reformed Church

Entrance free of charge.

Retiring collection in aid of charity

Local events



PRESERVATION SOCIETY MEETINGS

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 15th April

King Edward Hall, 8pm

The Legacy of the 3rd Earl of Sheffield (1832-1909) of Sheffield Park, Sussex by **Brian Tester**

Wednesday 20th May

King Edward Hall, 8pm

HAYWARDS HEATH MUSIC SOCIETY

Concert

TOM POSTER (piano)

Saturday 18 April, St Wilfrid's, 7.45pm

Calling all Operatic fans.....

42nd STREET

Tuesday 21st – Saturday 25th April

Evenings 7.30pm, Saturday matinees 2.30pm

Once again it is time for the Spring production our local Operatic Society in Haywards Heath. "42nd STREET" is a fabulous, fizzing with fun show; plenty of dancing and familiar tunes. I've no doubt that this talented society will do the production justice, so don't miss out on an enjoyable evening at Clair Hall.

Tickets are £12.50, or £11 concession, and can be obtained at the Clair Hall Box Office in Perrymount Road.

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

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