

GoodNEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2009

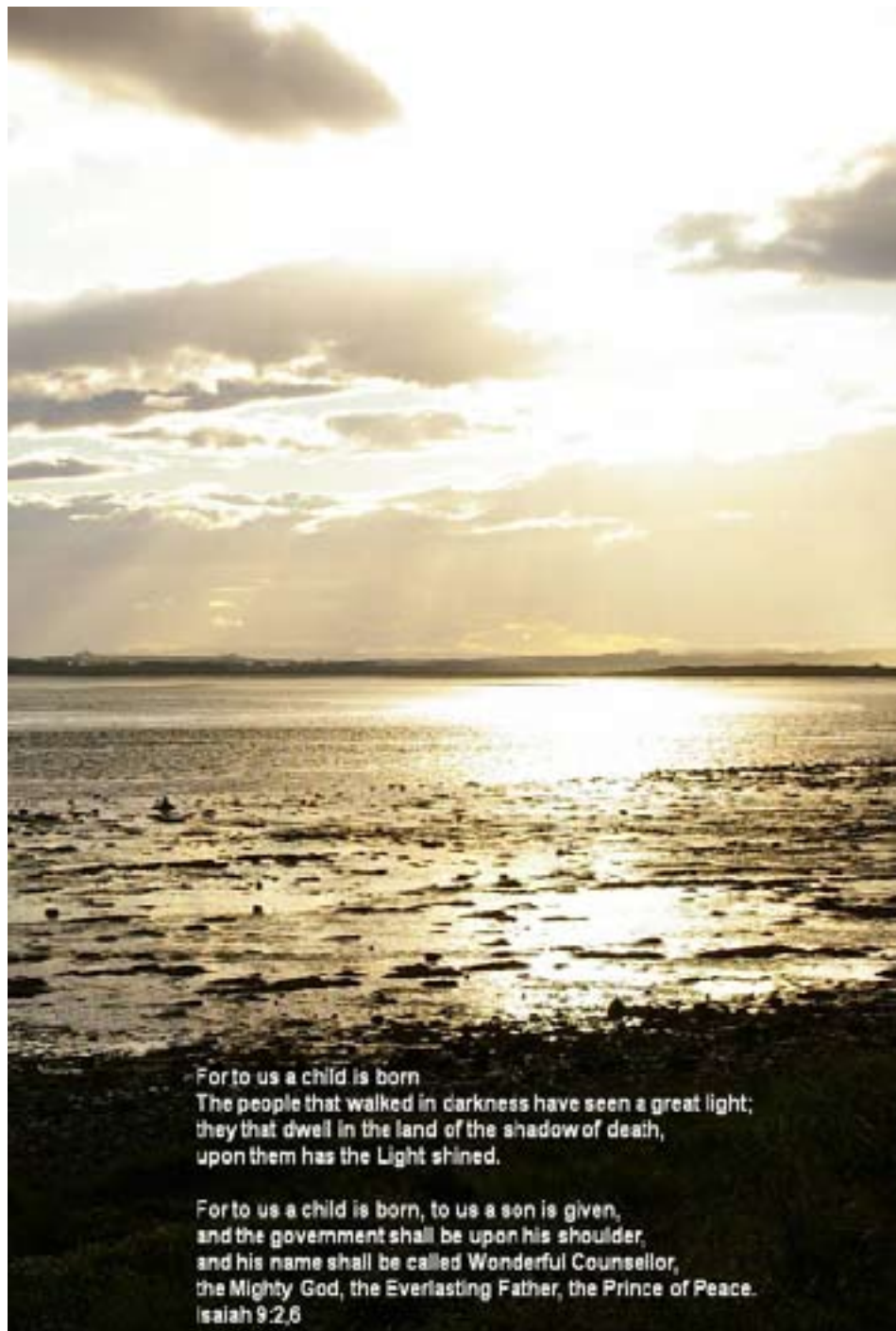


Jacqui Adams reflects on the symbolism of the christmas tree

PLUS...

- Jacqui Adams shares some thoughts on Christmas Mission
- Church Members share their family Christmas traditions
- Mission Support this month - The Worthing Churches Homeless Project





For to us a child is born
The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light;
they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death,
upon them has the Light shined.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor,
the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:2,6

Dear Friends...



For many service families, Christmas will be a sad time this year. A much loved son or father, husband or daughter will not be there. This will be true not only for service families of course. Many will be mourning the loss of a loved one, but the pain of those whose children and partners have been killed in military conflict is different. There will be a sense of pride in the sacrifice made, because these young men and women go to war knowing full well what might happen to them; but at the same time, there will also be an aching sense of regret at a young life, with so much potential, cruelly cut down.

Meanwhile, the rest of us will get on with the celebrations, which in spite of the effects of the recession are bound to absorb much time, energy and bank balance. Personally, I see nothing wrong in folk having a good time at Christmas. I had the great privilege of growing up in a happy home, surrounded by the love and attention of my parents and sisters and even in my dotage I still get excited by the thought of giving and receiving presents and sharing the fun of Christmas with those I love.

Incidentally, if you or someone you know is likely to be alone on December 25th, please understand that there is a welcome here at Ryecroft. Anyone who has no one else with whom to share the day is welcome. Never think that Jenny and I make this offer to be kind. For us, Christmas Day without guests to entertain would be a very sad occasion.

But how do you deal with sadness when the rest of the world is enjoying itself? I think the best way is to remember what really happened. A young girl found herself pregnant out of wedlock. Her husband-to-be had to cope with looking after someone else's child. Together they had to make a long journey to an unfamiliar city and find themselves homeless amongst strangers. It wasn't a very exciting or pleasurable experience for either of them and for Mary, who had to give birth amongst the animals, it must have been the most difficult and dangerous thing she had ever done. You see, although we enjoy ourselves at Christmas – and why not, because we are celebrating the most wonderful moment in the history of the Universe? – for the central characters (God Himself among them) it involved unparalleled love and sacrifice.

Unparalleled love and sacrifice – that is precisely what is shown by the young men and women who are ready to give their lives in Afghanistan and that is precisely what is at the heart of the Gospel – “God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son.....” What difference does that make to the way we live our lives I wonder.

Jenny and I send you our very best wishes for a really happy Christmas.

Your Pastor and friend,

Charles S. Martin.

GoodNEWS

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Editorial



**Both Charles Martin
and Jacqui Adams
talk about Christmas
and focus our thoughts on this
most incredible of days which
shows us the depths of God's
Love for us.**

The Worthing Churches Homeless
Trust is the Mission we are
supporting this month. Do read the
article about what they are doing
to practically show God's Love to
those who may have had very little
experience of being loved.

Some members of the church
have shared with us some of their
Family Christmas traditions.

We have the usual supplement
at Christmas of all the Christmas
cracker greetings which have been
written.

Finally all of us on the Editorial
team would like to add our
Christmas greetings to you our
Readers, and pray that this
Christmas you may indeed... 'know
(Christ's) love that surpasses
knowledge – that you may be
(being) filled to the measure of all
the fullness of God.' Ephesians 3:19

Thanks to Lydia Goodchild for
designing the Front cover.

*The Editorial Team –
Jacqui Adams, Martin Hall, Stuart
and Carol Marsh, Val Cookney
and Tom Burford our Copier.*

STOP PRESS: The January and
February editions of the Good News
are going to be combined to one
Winter Edition. So there will be no
magazine out in February 2010.
Copy date for this edition is 12th
December 2009.





“Be Still and Know That I am God”

Stillness is probably the last thing on many people's minds during the run up to Christmas. There's far too much to do; what with shopping for presents and preparing food, we probably haven't time to sit down let alone be still.

At this time of Advent we are not only focusing on the coming of Jesus in the stable in Bethlehem but also on the coming of Christ as King in His Second Advent.

In Church we have the Advent wreath with a candle for each of the four Sundays in Advent.

The first candle is the Prophet candle representing the hope and anticipation of Christ's coming in flesh as prophesied in the Old Testament.

Let us give thanks for God's Word which still speaks to us today. Please pray for Christians who are not allowed a copy of the Bible.

The second candle is the Bethlehem candle reminding us that Jesus came as a baby to be born of a virgin in the small town of Bethlehem.

As we think of Jesus birth in the poorest of conditions let us give thanks that He was willing to humble Himself for our salvation. The poverty of His birth also reminds us to pray for those who are struggling financially maybe having lost job or home or both.

The third candle is the Shepherd's candle recalling the rejoicing of the shepherds after having seen the baby in the stable.

May we too rejoice at the significance of that baby in Bethlehem remembering that the shepherds were outcasts in their society but not in God's eyes.

The fourth candle is the Angels candle reminding us of the Good News of the Saviour's birth in Bethlehem and that He will be coming again.

Let us give thanks for Jesus our Saviour. Please pray that many will hear the good news of the Saviour's birth this Christmas .

May we all find time this Advent to

“Be still and know that I am God”

Carol Walters

“O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree....”

Perhaps our most poignant example of the love of God for a broken world ~ a Christmas tree, bringing to mind the Cross of Jesus, the love of God, a perfect sacrifice.

You may favour an angel at the top or your tree, or perhaps a star. How those shepherds must have wondered at what they saw that awesome night. How faithfully the Wise Men followed the star, which led them to Jesus. Perhaps we can follow their devoted example.

The love of God is as evergreen for you today as on that day that Jesus gave His life, that we might be reunited with a holy God.

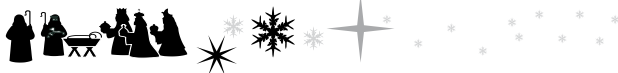
The wood within the tree reminds me of the carpenter, Joseph: His astonishing, unquestioning obedience; he listened, God spoke, he obeyed.

I love the lights, there's something about them that transforms the tree ~ the light of God. Jesus said He is the Light of the World. Transforming our darkness with His light.

And in this world, which our Heavenly Father holds so tenderly in His hands, a world to which King Jesus will return, in power and authority ~ let's use this Christmas time to prepare our hearts before Him ~ perhaps we need God's grace to put right a broken relationship? Or to take the time to confess to our loving God the things in our lives which, in our hearts, we know to be wrong. I guess there wasn't a lock on that stable door, and nor is there a lock on heaven's door ~ it always stands open to receive those with a penitent heart and a desire for God.

The Lord Jesus is coming back to earth soon ~ let's be wise ~ be ready to welcome Him with open arms and open hearts, and while we wait let's follow the example of the Christmas story: share the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus, bring our gifts to Him to use for His glory, walk the way of the Cross, and bow down in worship to our King Jesus.

Jacqui Adams



But surely everyone
does that...!:

Christmas Traditions

All families have their own traditions and peculiarities and Amine certainly does (!) – but especially when it comes to the celebration of Christmas. I think though that the excitement and enjoyment that I still feel about the season of Christmas has a lot to do with the happy childhood memories that I have.

The build up to Christmas was full of little bits of fun – advent calendars, carols by candlelight at church, often concerts. The Christmas decorations were got out from the loft – much protestations from Dad that we were doing it much too early! In our early teens my brother and I discovered the joy of ‘The Muppet Christmas Carol’, a film which can only be described as a modern classic and we often used to have this on while we prepared the room for Christmas. Rich and I still enjoy this modern classic as well as the various concerts and band events that celebrate Christmas.

I have very clear ideas of the way that Christmas day itself should proceed, founded on much of the traditions I have inherited and fortunately when Rich and I got married our respective traditions were similar enough to avoid any major trauma. For example Christmas morning always starts with your stocking, yes even now at my advanced age. For some reason never specified, Father Christmas always left mine and my brother's stocking in Mum and Dad's wardrobe!! We learned at a very early age that it was advisable to make enquiries for our stockings after 7.00am and with a cup of tea in hand to encourage parental cooperation! Next on the agenda was church and then Christmas lunch. Christmas was a time to be with family so we often had lunch with my grandparents and then, at

least in theory, it was the time for the main presents. Quite often, we had to wait for the Queen's speech to finish and I'm sure that she has shortened her Christmas message as it used to go on for ages! Teatime was salad with the grandparents and Christmas crackers, Rich and I have slightly modified this now as his family always do nibbles as well so we do the best of both worlds! Television played virtually no part in Christmas day – we might consider it if there was something particular on but otherwise Christmas is for games and conversation.

Boxing Day was when we remembered (or were reminded of!) that all important stocking gift – the thank you letters. We faithfully churned these out to family and friends, if you left them too late you always forgot who gave you what gift!

These memories and traditions are very precious to me and I praise God for all the fantastic times and for the fact that I can still celebrate that special day, now with even more family. And I also remember the most important thank you of all – to Jesus himself who was prepared to give up the glory of heaven to share in our world.

Dawn Walters

Family Christmas Customs

A Christmas Tree Until February

Every Christmas we have a rooted Norwegian spruce which we decorate as normal in the house and enjoy until Twelfth Night. After that we strip off the decorations and put it out into our back garden and create a “Birds’ Christmas Tree”. Baubles are replaced by coconut halves, lametta strands by bacon rinds and tinsel by threaded unshelled peanuts. What a treat to look out of the windows on a crisp



January morning and watch the birds enjoying their Winter feast!

As early Spring approaches, the tree is stripped once more and it is moved to a shady spot, and keeping it well watered, it may well survive to start all over again the next Christmas. Although they never say anything, we think that our neighbours probably believe that we are quite crackers!

Carol and Stuart Marsh

Our Christmas Boat

Ever since I can remember as a little girl, my family always had our “Christmas Boat”. My father made it and it was used every Christmas - a galleon in full sail. My father’s family were seafarers and it was made to echo the words of the Carol, “I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In”, and it was filled with all sorts of good things -fruit and nuts and, best of all, small Christmas gifts for everyone.

When I was young, batteries were very cumbersome and didn’t last very long either, so we could only light up the boat on Christmas Day itself. Nowadays, however, Roy has cleverly adapted it for electricity so that we can have lights for the whole Christmas period.

When I ask my grandchildren each year if they still want the Boat, the answer is always “YES!”, they won’t hear of the tradition finishing - so, long may it last.

Betty Billins



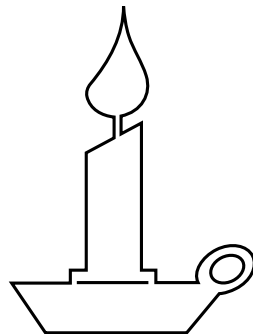


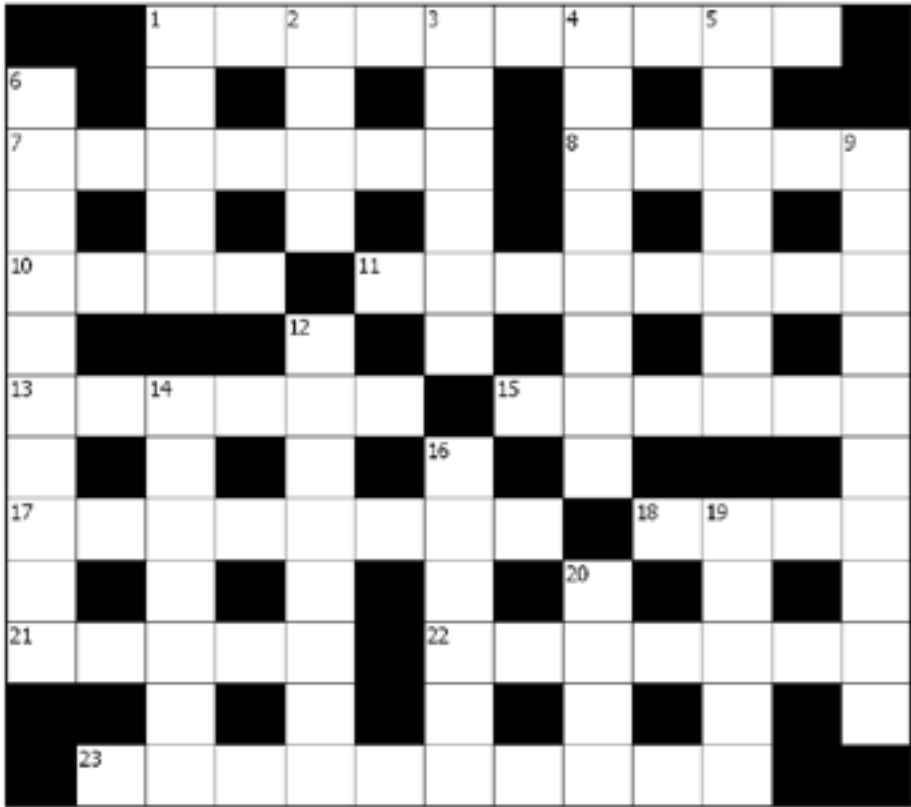
Christmas Traditions

From the age of about 4 until 9 I grew up on Zanzibar Island in the Indian Ocean, now a part of Tanzania. As you can imagine, Christmas there was quite different to the UK, for a start we were straight away able to play outside with our new toys, without worry about cold or snow!

We had one unusual Christmas Day tradition that was carried over to UK on our return. Having four young and active sons full of curiosity, our Father made special arrangements on Christmas Eve to prevent us getting in amongst the presents until after breakfast on Christmas day. He was a mariner at heart and so very skilful with rope, which he used to wrap around the door handle into the lounge (where the presents awaited us), making it impossible to enter until he had released the knots – at which time there was a mad and joyful rush into the room! I remember that, even in Zanzibar, Father Christmas always left a few crumbs and a drop or two of sherry from the snacks left out in our lounge to sustain him on his epic round the world trip!

Martin Hall





Across

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14-15) (7)
- 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
- 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
- 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
- 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith – (6)
- 17 Stormy (8)
- 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone unclean (Numbers 9:11) (4)
- 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
- 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
- 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

Down

- 1 – and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8) (5)
- 2 The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as – as a lion (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
- 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
- 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19-20) (8)
- 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
- 6 Offer your bodies as living – , holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1) (10)
- 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
- 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
- 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)
- 16 He asked Jesus, What is truth? (John 18:38) (6)
- 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
- 20 You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21) (4)

Answers on page 20

December church diary

2nd

Wednesday Village Festival Night

3rd

Thursday House Groups

5th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at All Saints

6th

Sunday 9.30am Communion
– The Pastor
11.00am Morning Worship
– The Pastor
6.30pm Evening Worship
– Testimony
Evening.

9th

Wednesday 12.30 Lunch Fellowship

11th

Friday 12.30 Lunch Fellowship

12th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at All Saints

13th

9.30am David Jones.
11.00am David Jones
6.30pm Communion
– The Pastor

19th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at All Saints

20th

Sunday 9.30am The Pastor
11.00am The Pastor
4.30pm Praise Party

22nd

Tuesday 7.30pm Christmas Concert

24th

Thursday 4.30pm Crib Service
7.30pm Carols by
Candlelight

25th

Friday 10.00am Christmas Day
Family Service
– The Pastor

27th

Sunday 10.30am Morning Service
– Communion
The Pastor
6.30pm Joint Service at
All Saints



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:-

7th	10.30am	Philip Wren
13th	10.30am	Michael Davies
20th	3.30pm	CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT - Charles Martin
27th	10.30am	Philip Wren

You are especially welcome to join us for our

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT Service at **3.30pm**
on **December 20th** and to stay afterwards for a
chat over a cup of tea and mincepies.

FlowerRota

Arranging

Distributing

December

6th	Janet Wade	Iris Bingham
15th	Carol Walters	Heather Swann
20th	Christmas decorations	No Distribution
27th	Christmas decorations	No Distribution

January

3rd	Gladys Porter	Sue Tester
10th	Mies Campling	Jacqueline Wood
17th	Lesley Sparks	Barbara Shepherd
24th	Mary Comber	Kay Phillpot
31st	Chris Casswell	Jo Bloxham

If anyone is able to help with the distribution of the Church flowers on a Monday please contact Heather Swann – tel: 450335

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.

Recordings of services can be borrowed free from the church.

Getting back to a Simple Christmas

Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee has written best-selling books on politics, controversies and the fate of the US Republican party. Now, with Christmas fast approaching, he's tackling his most important topic yet: a true Christmas spirit. In his new book, "Simple Christmas: Twelve Stories that Celebrate the True Holiday Spirit", Huckabee writes about what truly matters most this holiday season. The book includes 12 intimate stories about the man before he became a household name in the US - funny tales of impatience at Christmas to tales of trial and sacrifice. Huckabee uses his candid stories to remind us all to slow down and enjoy what's truly important this season: family, faith, love and hope.

Source: <http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews>

Look beyond material things

Pentecostal Pastor Jonathan Oloyede has exhorted Christians not to be distracted by money or fame but to seek eternal treasures in Heaven. "I want to encourage everyone to get on with the real business of the Kingdom and dragging people back from the precipice of Hell to Heaven. Don't get distracted running after money or fame. Become enraptured in making sure that one more soul does not go to eternal damnation."

Oloyede made the comments on 10th November at RCCG Victory House in south London, where members were in the midst of a 21-day prayer and fast for the capital and nation. Oloyede, who also convenes the Global Day of Prayer in London, urged Christians to drop their own agendas and start praying for God's. "We are good at fasting from food. I want to encourage you to fast from distractions," he said, stressing the need for purity. "You might not eat but you fill your heart and your mind with all kinds of junk ... Make sure that the manna you are eating from the Lord far outweighs what the world is feeding you."

Source: <http://www.christiantoday.co.uk>



Editors note: *You may have heard this story before, and you may have heard that the Christian meaning behind it does not really exist. Who knows for sure? Parish Pump has tried to find out either way, but without any success. Certainly this interpretation has been found in many places (including the BBC website), and it is an interesting story. So if it appeals to you, you may like to share it with your friends, and leave them to make up their own minds.*

12 Days of Christmas

When most people hear 'The 12 days of Christmas' they think of the song of the same name. It is believed by many that this song had its origins as a teaching tool to instruct young people in the meaning and content of the Christian faith. From 1558 to 1829 Roman Catholics in England were not able to practice their faith openly, so they had to find other ways to pass on their beliefs. The song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' is one example of how many people believe that they did it.

The song goes, "On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me..."

The 'true love' represents God and the 'me' who receives these presents is the Christian.

The 'partridge in a pear tree' was Jesus Christ who died on a tree as a gift from God.

The 'two turtle doves' were the Old and New Testaments - another gift from God.

The 'three French hens' were faith, hope and love - the three gifts of the Spirit that abide (1Corinthians 13).

The 'four calling birds' were the four Gospels, which sing the song of salvation through Jesus Christ.

The 'five golden rings' were the first five books of the Bible, also called the 'Book of Moses'.

The 'six geese a-laying' were the six days of creation.

The 'seven swans a swimming' were 'seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.' (1Corinthians 12:9-11, Romans 12, Ephesians 4, 1Peter 4:10-11.)

The 'eight maids a milking' were the eight beatitudes.

The 'nine ladies dancing' were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

The 'ten lords a-leaping' were the Ten Commandments.

The 'eleven pipers piping' were the eleven faithful disciples.

The 'twelve drummers drumming' were the twelve points of the Apostles' Creed.

So the next time you hear 'The 12 Days of Christmas' you can make up your own mind: could this non-religious sounding song really have had its origins in the Christian Faith, or not?

Source: Parish Pump

Thanks

We recently celebrated our Ruby Wedding Anniversary and we would like to thank everyone for their cards and good wishes. It is really good to belong to such a caring and loving Church family. Praise the Lord!

Carol and Stuart Marsh.

I would like to thank my friends at Lindfield URC for their very kind support, prayers, flowers and telephone calls during my recent problems with my back. Thank you all so much.

Vera Dorton

CALLED 'HOME'

On 28th October, Elsie Plimmer, died peacefully after battling with poor health over recent months. Elsie and her husband Wally have been part of the Church family either here or at Balcombe for quite a time. They had been married for almost 68 years. We extend our love and sympathy to Wally and his family at this sad time.

Walter Plimmer would like to thank everyone at the church for their kindness and thoughtfulness following the sad loss of his beloved Elsie

Our dear and valued friend, **Priscilla Walden**, has also gone home to her Lord and Saviour on November 2nd. Priscilla had been ill for 18 months, but she held firm to her strong faith as she courageously coped with her cancer. Her love and concern for others was there right up to the end, and she will be sadly missed amongst us, not least for her gift of playing the organ for worship. To her large family and many friends we send our love and sympathy.

On behalf of Priscilla's family circle, I wish to convey to her many friends in the church our sincere thanks for your prayers and thoughts during her final illness which she faced so courageously, and for your practical spontaneous support in whatever way with the arrangements for the service of thanksgiving. It meant so much to us and the delightful afternoon tea was much appreciated as it gave especially those who had travelled a distance the opportunity to renew old acquaintances, chat and reminisce.

David Welch (Priscilla's Brother)

INFANT BAPTISMS

It was a joy to celebrate with **Charlie and Marion Tingley** in the **Baptism of Grace and Fraser** on November 1st. We pray God's blessing on them all.

The Fellowship

We have no meeting in December as our usual date is so near to Christmas. However we are having a Special Coffee Morning on Saturday 9th January 2010 at 10.30am., when we shall have the pleasure of meeting with the Art Group, and seeing some of the work their talents have produced.

Later in the month on Wednesday 27th we will welcome a visit from our pastor, Rev. Charles Martin. There will be our Bring and Buy Stall at this meeting. We extend a very warm welcome to all to come and share fellowship with us on these two occasions.

Winifred Scopes



“You’d never believe it”

Tales from a minister’s murky past (part seven)

I knew the family well, but when I met them Christmas shopping in Orpington, I was surprised to see the daughter of sixteen pushing a baby-buggy. My surprise must have been obvious, because her mother said in an embarrassed tone “Hello Mr. Martin.” And referring to her daughter’s baby, “Didn’t you know about our little mistake ?” I didn’t have time to reply because the girl herself countered “It wasn’t a mistake ! Anyway, it’s God’s fault.”

Determined to defend the honour of the Almighty when He had been blamed for the action of some spotty youth, I said “You can hardly blame Him”. Quick as a flash came the reply, “You could if your name was Mary !”

CSM

Lindfield Royal British Legion Coffee Morning

Lindfield Royal British Legion Women’s Section is holding a Coffee Morning on Tuesday December 1st 10-12 at Oaklee, Compton Road. Entrance £1. This includes as many cups of coffee or tea as you want.

There will be a Bring and Buy Stall, Tombola and Raffle.

Please support this worthy cause.

Betty Billins

Worthing Churches Homeless Projects

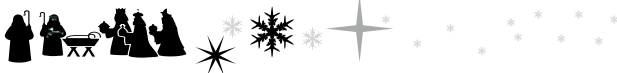
As we have done for several years now, we shall be devoting this month's mission giving to help the homeless through the work of WCHP, and shall be welcoming back Mick Gisbey and Louise Brooks, the charity's Service Manager and Statutory and Trust Fundraiser, to share with us at the morning services on December 6th the latest news from the projects.

What began back in the early 1990s as a 'soup and sandwich' run by a small number of concerned Christians has grown into a multi faceted organisation with specialist permanent staff assisted by over 200 volunteers, offering support to many who have found themselves at rock bottom, lonely and without a home.

The team at Worthing Churches Homeless Projects believes that everyone has the right to a home, regardless of the difficulties and issues they may face in their lives. They also believe in showing those who need their help, that the wider community is there to support them and to offer hope for a better future. Last year over 450 individuals received help.

The largest number of homeless are so because of a relationship breakdown, followed by people who leave the armed services and young people coming out of care. Others may have suffered bereavement or extreme financial hardship. All have a story to tell, some very sad. All are different, but the individuals are all special to God. Read Bob's, Julie's and Peter's stories – told by them – on WCHP's website www.wchp.org.uk.

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



sanctuary away from the chaos and destruction of living on the streets is normally the first port of call where individuals can find food and shelter, normally for up to 8 weeks. The Stepping Stones Project, a longer term project where people can take stock of their lives and spend up to 2 years brushing up the skills they'll need to live in their own accommodation. This might include cooking, cleaning, rebuilding or making new relationships. The Recovery Project, opened over 3 years ago, is a specialist housing project for people with drug and alcohol related problems. 'Move on' accommodation is for people who are ready to leave the projects which offer 24/7 support, with accommodation for 5 people where they can learn to be more independent, with reduced support provided.

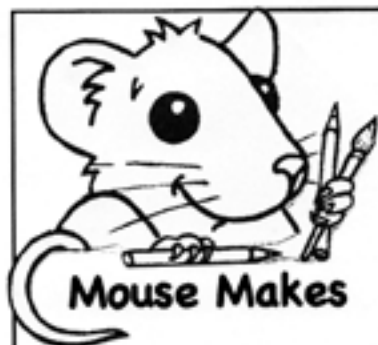
There are also plans to open a dedicated Charity Shop in Worthing town centre before Christmas. Louise has appealed for good quality items (no electrical items) and can arrange for collection/delivery (Tel: 01903 227829 or louise.brooks@wchp.org.uk) if necessary.

Thank you to all here in Lindfield who have given practical and financial support and have prayed for the work to go forward. It's really appreciated!

Why not visit the display in the church concourse throughout December to find out more.

The Mission Team





Mouse Makes

Glue this sheet to a piece of thin card and carefully cut out around the stable shape. Colour in and hang on the Christmas tree. Add glitter for extra sparkle

Away in a manger,
no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus
laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky
looked down where he lay
The little Lord Jesus
asleep on the hay.

Read the Christmas
story in **Matthew**
1:18-25 and
Luke
1:26-2:20



Christmas Post-Box

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

The Final posting date will be Friday 18th December 2009, and we will have the letters sorted for collection on Sunday 20th December 2009.

A few tips for successful delivery:

Please put the Full name including Surname of the person you are sending to. (We have lots of Fiona's, Kath's, David's etc.)

Please put the full first line of the address. (We only have the Good news to go by and some people may not be in there and we can't deliver it if it is not collected.)

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas

The Post-Box Team

“Through The Window”

Some five hundred people visited our church during the five days of the 200th Anniversary celebrations in October. Many people signed the visitors' book with comments such as “A wonderful trip down memory lane”, “Splendid!”, “Fascinating”, “Very well researched”, “Very interesting, brings back memories” and “A wonderful witness to the Lord's goodness” to “Praise the Lord!”.

Of course the Exhibition and Concert could not have gone ahead without the help of many people. Special thanks must go to:-

- The Lindfield Historical Society, Rosemary Davies for all the meticulous research she carried out, and the setting up of the exhibition.
- Peter Swann for all his hard work in organising, writing, rehearsing everything to do with the concert.
- Richard Walters for his untiring help, advice and patience with the rest of us!

As you can see there are only a few names that have been mentioned, but the church is really grateful to everyone who worked so hard in making these few days such a success. Here's to the next 200 years!

Carol Marsh

Wise men?

I was telling my three boys the story of the Nativity and how the Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for the infant Jesus. Clearly giving it a lot of thought, my six-year-old observed, “Mum, a Wise Woman would have brought nappies.”

(Source: Parish Pump)

And finally.....

Christ became what we are that he might make us what he is.
– Athanasius.

(Source: Parish Pump)



Answers to crossword on page 9.

- DOWN:**
- 1, Taste.
 - 2, Bold.
 - 3, Ramiah.
 - 4, Abiathar.
 - 5, Lucerne.
 - 6, Sacrifices.
 - 9, Saddledbags.
 - 12, Theocrat.
 - 14, Incense.
 - 16, Pilate.
 - 19, Exist.
 - 20, Save.
- ACROSS:**
- 1, Tabernacle.
 - 7, Absalom.
 - 8, Incas.
 - 10, Roes.
 - 11, Captured.
 - 13, Fright.
 - 15, Cavell.
 - 17, Cyclonic.
 - 18, Herb.
 - 21, Sonar.
 - 22, Amazing.
 - 23, Settlement.



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 Office: 01444 482098

Charles Martin (Minister)

Mobile No: 07821 904785

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 483937

Zest Co-ordinator:

Clare Nibloe 01444 484683

Lighthouse (Junior church)

Co-ordinator:

Dawn Walters 01444 441601



Local events

Christmas Concert by the Mid Sussex Choir

**Saturday 19th December, 7.30pm
at St Wilfrid's Church, Haywards Heath.**

This concert will include choruses from "The Messiah" and a festive cantata entitled "Christmas is coming", and there will be the usual mix of Carols for Choir and Audience. A number of us will be taking part and would value your support – we are sure you will be in for an enjoyable evening!

Tickets available in advance from Carol Merrett, Fiona Tingley or Graham Wood. (It will cost you more on the night!)

The ANNUAL TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

Tuesday 22nd December, 7.30pm

Participating will be the Copthorne Silver Band, Sunday Morning Singers and guests and the compere will be our own Minister, Rev. Charles Martin.

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

For further information, please contact Peter Swann 01444 450335. Many thanks.

*Good***NEWS**

Christmas 2009 Cracker Supplement

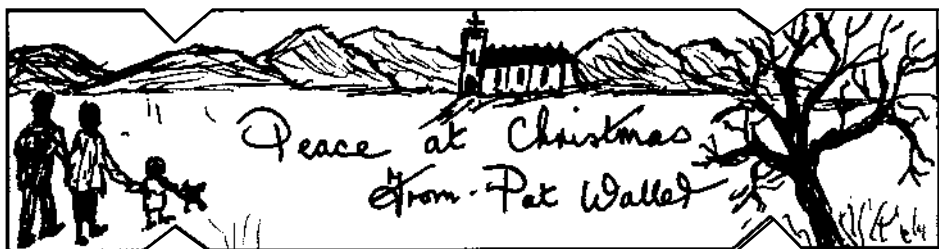


*Your Christmas
Greetings!*

Wishing everyone a very
blessed & peaceful Christmas
& New Year. With love
Helen, Martin, Jonathan & Alex



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AT
LINDFIELD URC
WITH OUR LOVE - DENNICK GILWEN
HILLMAN.
HAPPY CHRISTMAS XX



Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year
to all at the Lindfield URC.
Love From the Harfields:-
Jane, Tim, Alex, Johanna and Kieran
xxx

Thank you for your love and encourage-
ment. You are a blessing to us.
Wishing you a wonderful Christmas!
Love David, Lydia, Joe and Freya xxxxx

Wishing all our friends
at Lindfield URC a Happy Christmas
and Peaceful New Year
From Mary & Chris Combes.
YES that means you.....

I send Christmas greetings and every good wish to
all my church family.
Your prayers and support have helped me through
the most difficult year of my life. Thank you.
In Christian love — Gladys Muir.

With my love & prayers that God
will bless you, my Church family,
with a happy Christmas & peaceful
New Year. Fiona (Go)

To all our friends at Lindfield URC
May you know the joy and peace Jesus brings.
Happy Christmas
David & Gail Walters

Wishing you all a Happy
Christmas and a peaceful New Year.
Thank you for your prayers and
support during the year.
Betty & Ray

Warmest Christmas
greetings from Jenny and
Charles (and Socci)

May God bless you all this Christmas,
Stuart & Carol Moore.

Wishing all our dear friends in
Lindfield URC a happy and blessed
Christmas and a healthy New Year
Lots of love, Ray & Rosemary
and Iris. x ^{you} PTL.

Christmas greetings
and good wishes for a Happy
New Year to all my U.R.C
friends
Toe Hunt

HAPPY CHRISTMAS
TO EVERYONE
LOTS OF LOVE Chris
FROM Nissa.

Toby

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR FROM
JIMMY

WISH MY BROTHERS AND SISTER IN CHRIST
A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND EVERY
BLESSING IN 2000 WITH LOVE IN CHRIST JESUS
CLIFF GRIFFITHS

a healthy & happy Christmas
and Peaceful new year to all
at Lindfield URC
Evelyn Lea

To all my new friends at the Lindfield
URC - I wish you a joyful Christmas.
May 2000 bring you good health and
peace. From Pat P

Donald & Audrey wish everyone
a joyous Christmas & a
peaceful new year

Clare, Emma and
Rachel Nibloe

Wish all their friends at L.U.R.C.
a Happy Christmas

Wishing you a very happy
Christmas & New Year

from Idun, Kai, Indyl & Kate
Cookines



To wish all my friends at Lindfield
URC a happy Christmas and a
peaceful New Year

Brenda S.





Love, joy & peace to all
friends

Wooty Brown

IRENE CURTIS WISHES
EVERYONE A PEACEFUL
AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS

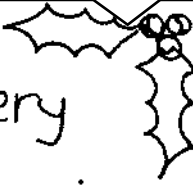
Happy Christmas and New
Year From Basem and Gina
~~xxxx~~

Anne Parker would like to
wish all members of Hindfield
URC family a Happy Christmas
and a peaceful New Year.

 To all our friends at the URC
Wishing You A Very Happy 
Christmas
With our love, John, Carol, Simon, Helen
x

May Jesus be the light of your
life this Christmas time
With love to all our friends

Jean
+
Mike

Dear friends, 
Wishing you all a very
Happy Christmas!
With love, Jacqui xx.

WISHING ALL OUR
FRIENDS IN THE CHURCH
A HAPPY AND BLESSED
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR.
TED & LESLEY SPARKS



WISHING EVERYONE
HEALTH, HOPE, HARMONY
PERSEVERANCE, PATIENCE, PEACE
IN 2010
AUBREY - - - - - NOKNA



Love, Joy, Hope and Peace
to all at Christmas.

Minister John Scopes.

MAY I WISH ALL MY FRIEND AT A.U.A.C.
A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND HOPEFULLY
A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR FOR THOSE IN NEED.
WITH LOVE & BLESSINGS,
YOURS, HILARY G. JOSE

wishing you all a
very happy Christmas
and a blessed new year

*Kindest Regards
R. B. Cooper*