

GoodNEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2009

Martin on his travels



PLUS...

- Find out about the church Fun day
- Stuart talks about turning a hobby into a job
- Emma, Fiona and Iris talk about their Baptisms

FREE
PLEASE HELP YOURSELF



Church in Yogyakarta



Touching Buddha inside a stupa at Borobudur, temple



Prambanan Hindu temple



Front cover photo:
Borobudur, Buddhist temple

Dear Friends...



Although it's some months away, the time for choosing Elders for our church here in Lindfield is fast approaching. With this in mind, I thought I would share a few thoughts about what Eldership in the United Reformed Church is all about.

The big mistake that many people make (including, I fear, some Elders) is to think that the Elders' Meeting is the "Church Committee". It's there, so they imagine, to make sure everything runs smoothly and things happen when they should. Let's get rid of that misconception straight away. The Elders are the spiritual leaders of the fellowship. Their role is to pastor, to teach, to guide and to maintain discipline. Other people, under the oversight of the Elders, keep the show on the road.

When we come, later in the year, to choose Elders, the people we must look for will not necessarily be the best or most impressive in purely human terms. Youth and/or experience are fine in themselves, but they don't guarantee godly leadership. We need people of prayer, women and men who walk with God. It thrills me that after our recent Elders' afternoon retreat, the one thing we decided, was that we have to meet together for prayer to seek the Lord. So instead of having one Elders' meeting each month, we will now have two and the second will be given over totally to prayer and seeking God.

Our church is crammed full of people with gifts, Holy Spirit given gifts of teaching, caring, serving, sharing their faith and many more, but those gifts must be nurtured by godly leadership and collectively, that is the real function of the Elders' meeting.

In one of the foundation documents of the United Reformed Church, the Westminster Confession, it's explained that the Minister differs from the other Elders, only in so far as he is trained and set aside to preach, pastor and teach full time. Both he and his fellow Elders are "ordained", that is set aside for the specific role of spiritual leadership and I am sincerely grateful that that is how our Elders here at Lindfield see their place within the fellowship.

So, we need to pray that God will guide us in our choice of Elders. We need to pray too that the Holy Spirit will touch the hearts of the women and men He has given us to bear the burden of leadership. With that in mind, might He be calling you to such a task? If you think you are not good or spiritual enough, let me say that those who think they are good or spiritual enough, are the very last people we need

Dear Friends cont....

as Elders ! This is not a choice, it's a calling and when God calls, as the old hymn says

"O Master, when Thou callest, no voice can say Thee nay
And blest are they who follow, where Thou dost lead the way."

*Your Pastor and friend,
Charles S. Martin*

You'd Never Believe It!

Tales from a Minister's Murky Past - part three

It was the third wedding of the day (at St. Mary Cray, we had a lot of weddings) and my older son Matthew, whom some of you know, because he and his wife and family have been part of the church since December, was the organist. He had played for the previous two ceremonies and quite understandably, spent the time in between playing for the hymns, quietly reading a book.

The bride and groom were a somewhat ill-assorted pair. He was about five foot five and she was at least three inches taller. He probably weighed no more than ten stone, while she must have touched the scales at about nineteen ! She had shoulders like a wrestler and I have never seen so many darts in a wedding dress.

When we came to the third hymn, I saw her look nervously at the organ. Matthew couldn't be seen, because he was sitting on a chair behind the organ screen and just as I announced the first line, she said "He's done a runner !"

I assured her that he had not and soon the music put her mind at rest.

After the service, it began to rain, so I allowed the photographs to be taken inside the church. Most of the congregation, including the happy couple, had gone outside for a smoke and when they returned, the bridesmaids were nowhere to be seen. I won't quote the bride's exact words, but the gist of it was severe displeasure at their absence, expressed in very colourful terms. I had never heard a bride talk like that and her father saw the shock on my face. Attempting to retrieve the situation, he said "I'm sorry Vicar. I tried to teach her English, but all she'd ever learn was Anglo-Saxon !"

CSM

GoodNEWS

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



Editorial



Some one slightly shocked me the other day and said that they actually read the editorial!! So better write something good. Mind you Adrian has just told me that there will be a slight delay in lunch being ready as he put the meat in the top oven and had turned on the bottom oven!! So time to ponder and reflect on this months offering!

Martin has been on his travels again this time to Indonesia. He again gives us fascinating insights into different places and cultures. But also reminds us of the need to be Christians with a 'world view' and prayers for God's world.

Charles talks about Eldership and the need for us as a church to pray for our Elders and the election of new Elders. With the summer coming up and hopefully more time and space it would be a really good challenge to set ourselves to do this over the summer months.

Emma, Fiona and Iris have all written very personally about being baptised last month. It is so exciting to read about what God is doing in people's lives, so do take time to read and pray and maybe as a result be encouraged to write your own piece for the magazine about what God is doing in your life.

There are as ever more events and happenings to find out about and lots more. Lunch is now cooking and tempting me away from the computer.

*Have a Good summer
Val*

Prayer **FOCUS**



Prayer is conversation between you and God. It is a two-way dialogue in which (as in any good relationship) listening is vital.

I think we forget the fact that it is talking in very simple language to God Our Creator. In a prayer meeting He is right in the middle as we speak. This takes away all fear of whether we are going to stutter or not express clearly what we have to say or what others may think. The more natural we are – the more effective are our prayers.

When I learnt this I found all my inhibitions about prayer and praying out loud in a prayer meeting were taken away. From my own experience even humour was expressed in His presence when we all felt one with Him.

God loves us so much and longs for us to communicate corporately as well as individually. He longs for us to spend our lives in his presence for He is with us every step of the way.

"He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way."

God will only work when we pray. He just LOVES to answer prayer.

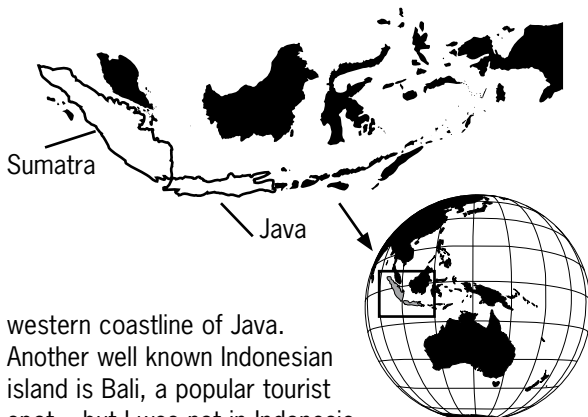
THANK YOU JESUS

Kay Phillipot

Indonesia Travels

– On A Wing And A Prayer

Earlier this year I travelled around the islands of Java and Sumatra, which make up a significant part of Indonesia. To be more precise I should clarify that I mainly visited West Java and West Sumatra – to do the whole country would have required much more than the two weeks at my disposal because the islands are vast. Together, just Java and Sumatra are equivalent to 2½ times the area of the whole United Kingdom, but they make up only 1/3rd of the area of Indonesia. Perhaps the most notorious of Indonesia's 13,000 islands is Krakatoa, which erupted in a series of explosions on August 26-27 1883, with a force equivalent to 13,000 times the power of the atomic bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima! I remember reading about Krakatoa in Look and Learn as a young boy, but had never really taken on board where it was, so it was an emotional experience to glimpse the actual island fleetingly through the sea mists as I stood on the extreme



western coastline of Java. Another well known Indonesian island is Bali, a popular tourist spot – but I was not in Indonesia as a tourist, I was there to hunt for flies!

Everywhere I went I was warmly received. Indonesia has a population of some 235 million people and I felt like I met many of them! On Java they are crammed in at a density of 1,026 per km², more than four times the UK density – and you thought it was crowded here! The majority of the population are Muslims (86%), giving it the greatest concentration of Muslims of any country. Islam was first adopted by Indonesians in northern Sumatra in the 13th century, due to the influence of traders, and it became the

country's dominant religion in the 16th century. Despite the high proportion of Muslims, Indonesia is not an Islamic state and the constitution states that, "every person shall be free to choose and to practice the religion of his/her choice" and "guarantees all persons the freedom of worship, each according to his/her own religion or belief". However, according to the BMS World Mission website, thousands of people have died in recent years in the country as a result of independence struggles, communal violence, religious differences, political uncertainty and economic upheaval.

Nevertheless, in Issue 1 (2009) of BMS's quarterly news and information paper, distributed when Katie Cookney's India team visited Lindfield URC, there were reports of encouraging news from Indonesia. BMS World Mission partners the Convention of Baptist Churches in Indonesia and supports over 20 partner workers who are involved in church planting and evangelism on the islands of Sumatra and Nias. My own experiences support these encouraging stories. I went to a large and well populated church in the original capital of Indonesia, Yogyakarta, and saw plenty of

evidence of churches elsewhere. The local English language paper of the present capital, Jakarta, has many adverts welcoming visitors to a number of lively looking churches. In all, about 9% of Indonesians are Christian, Roman Catholicism being introduced by early Portuguese colonialists and missionaries and Protestant denominations being introduced by Dutch Calvinist and Lutheran missionaries during the Dutch colonial period.

With 86% Muslim and 9% Christian that only leaves 5%, and those are made up of 3% Hindu and 2% Buddhist or other. Hinduism and Buddhism have a long history in Indonesia and I was fortunate to visit two of the most significant monuments to those faiths in my brief time there. The one I liked most, mainly for its peaceful atmosphere, was Borobudur, the largest Buddhist monument in the world, built around 750 A.D. It resembles a gently sloping pyramid, 123 m wide and 32 m tall, with a series of four galleries running right around the temple at increasing height, covered with 6 km of fantastic reliefs depicting religious and everyday activities. At the top are three terraces of bell-shaped stone structures, called

stupas, crowned with a single large stupa. The smaller stupas were built with a trellis design and each contained a human-sized statue of Buddha. You could just about touch the head of the statue if you put your arm through the trellis. No less impressive in construction, but with a darker and more brooding atmosphere that reminded me somewhat of Gotham City in the later Batman movies, was the 9th-century Hindu temple of Prambanan. The complex was made up of three squares, inside of which were a series of temples. The largest square held six temples, each one built for a different Hindu god. Unlike the gently sloping Borobudur, the Prambanan temples rise steeply skywards like sky scrapers, again covered in fantastic carved reliefs. The temples are built like dry stone walls, without any cement. Unfortunately this has meant that they have been damaged by recent large earthquakes and some are still unsafe to approach, with massive stones scattered around them evidence of the danger of falling masonry.

You may be wondering by now why I called this article, “On a wing and a prayer”. This phrase originated with the WWII patriotic song Coming

in on a Wing and a Prayer (1943), by Harold Adamson and Jimmie McHugh, which tells of a damaged warplane, barely able to limp back to base:

“On a wing and a prayer” seemed to be foremost in the mind



One of our planes was missing
Two hours overdue
One of our planes was missing
With all its gallant crew
The radio sets were humming
We waited for a word
Then a noise broke
Through the humming and this is what
we heard

Comin' in on a wing and a prayer
Comin' in on a wing and a prayer
Though there's one motor gone
We can still carry on
Comin' in on a wing and a prayer

What a show, what a fight, boys
We really hit our target for tonight
How we sing as we limp through the air
Look below, there's our field over there
With just one motor gone
We can still carry on
Comin' in on a wing and a prayer

Feature – Martin on his travels

of the management of one local airline, Lion Air. On my internal flight with Lion Air I was fascinated to find, for the first time in half a century of flying around the world, an invocation (prayer) card in the seat pocket, right alongside the safety card. It had the same “Please do not remove from aircraft” notice as the safety card and so was clearly regarded as of great importance. All Indonesian airlines, including the national carrier Garuda, were banned from flying to the European Union in June 2007 because of fears of safety. Perhaps the invocation card was a broad brush, belt and braces approach to encourage divine intervention in the safe arrival of Lion Air flights. Whether there is any research to try and correlate timely arrival with numbers of passengers using the cards I don't know!

Inside the card were prayers of five faiths, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and, interestingly separated, Protestant and Catholic. All were in three languages: Indonesian, Arabic and English. The English version of the invocations ranged from the practical, “... protect us on this journey from any hardship or danger...” (Islam) to the more general, “...may all beings be well and happy...” (Buddhism). The Christian prayers were mainly of the practical sort with the only

real difference between them being that the Catholic prayer called on angelic guidance for the crew. The Protestant prayer called directly on God to lead the crew in their duty, “...in order for us to arrive to destination in time and safe...”. I wonder when/if we will see similar cards on British Airways flights?!

I had a wonderful trip to Indonesia and, yes, I did catch lots of flies! I was also impressed by the evidence of the general toleration of many faiths, neatly illustrated by the invocation card. Please do remember Indonesia in your prayers, that religious tolerance will indeed be upheld there and that church planting might flourish.

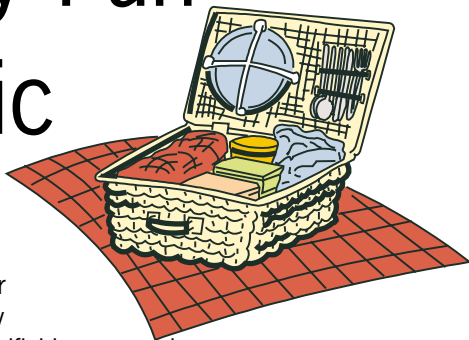
Martin Hall



Krakatoa from an early 19th-century illustration

Church Family Fun Day and Picnic

Sunday 5th July



The church will be meeting at Great Walstead for a Picnic and Family Fun Day on Sunday 5th July

After the normal 9:30 and 11:00 services in Lindfield everyone is invited to meet at Great Walstead School at 12:30pm for a bring and share picnic lunch on the front lawn. Transport will be provided from the church following the 11:00 service.

Activities, inflatable's, games and sports for all ages will be available around the lawn. The swimming Pool and the Walstead challenge course will also be open during the afternoon.

If the weather should fail us we have access to both the dining hall and the sports hall so activities WILL run whatever the weather!

The afternoon will also include an informal Family Service in the Walstead Chapel at 3:30pm.

August Church Picnic

Plans are in hand to have a Church picnic on Sunday 30th August, around 12.30pm.

We felt that for folk back from holidays, it would a good chance to catch up with all the news from the summer, and to have some fun time together. So please make a note of the date.

The venue will be announced nearer the date in the church Notice Sheet. Hope to see you there!



OM Turning Point

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

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

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

Its strategic importance!

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

Its uniqueness! For 30 years OM Turning Point workers have shared the Gospel in London. Their training programme is recognised both within OM and among other mission agencies as ideal preparation for those hoping to serve right across the World.

Three-fold Ministry Plan:

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

Keep praying for:

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

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



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

Please see also the separate notice about the supper on 11th July with Randy Lawler & Team from Turning Point. They will also be with us for our morning services on the 12th.

Mission Supper
with
Randy Lawler & Team
from
OM Turning Point - London

Saturday 11th July, 6.30pm

Many of us will know Simon & Becky Lunt who have been working with OM Turning Point for many years. LURC have also been supporting them in their ministry for some time.

Please Note: we are starting our evening earlier than is usual and the format will be slightly different.

We will start with our meal followed by a session entitled 'Understanding Islam'. Then we will break for coffee and 'nibbles' followed by a further session entitled 'Understanding Turning Point'

Free tickets are available from the **Missions Group:**
John Barling, Fiona Flett, Jean Gardiner and Ron Goodenough

Family News

CONGRATULATIONS – 100TH BIRTHDAY!

It is not too often that we can offer our warmest congratulations to a member of our Church Family on their 100th Birthday, so it is a delight to send our love and good wishes to Mabel Crawford Jones as she celebrates her centenary on August 10th. (Mabel is quite often to be seen in Sainsbury's – not bad for a 100 year old!)

sympathy to Carolyn Nurse and her Family, following the recent death of her Husband, Ray.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Gladys and Ian Forster on their Sapphire Wedding Anniversary. Fifty of these years spent here in Lindfield. Their third Great Grandchild arrived in time for the celebration.

Thanks be to God.

BEREAVEMENT

We extend our love and sincere

He chose to save you!

'He saved others; himself he cannot save..' Matthew 27:42

When the pastor introduced the visiting speaker, an elderly preacher walked to the pulpit and told this story: 'A father, his son, and his son's friend were sailing off the Pacific coast when a storm overturned their boat sweeping all of them into the ocean. Grabbing a rescue line, in a split second the father had to make the most excruciating decision of his life—which boy to throw the other end to and which one to sacrifice. He knew his son had accepted Christ and his friend hadn't. Anguished, the father yelled, 'I love you son' and threw the rope to his son's friend. By the time he'd pulled the boy back to the capsized boat his son had disappeared beneath the waves. His body was never recovered. The father knew his son would step into eternity with Jesus and couldn't bear the thought of his friend facing eternity without Christ.' At the end of the service a teenage boy approached the old man and said, 'That's a nice story, but what father in his right mind would sacrifice his son's life in hopes that the other boy would become a Christian?' 'You've got the point,' the old preacher replied, 'It's not realistic. But I'm standing here today to tell you that story gives me a glimpse into what it must have been like for God to sacrifice His only Son for us. You see ... I was that father, and your pastor was my son's friend.'

The Pharisees who watched Christ die said, 'He saved others; himself he cannot save.' And they were right; He couldn't do both, so He chose to save you.

Today will you accept His offer of salvation?

Source: From The Word for Today, (Saturday 30th May)

UCB Operations centre, West Port Road, Stoke on Trent ST6 4JF

July-August church diary

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.

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 July/August are as follows:-

July

5th Donald Nisbet
12th Charles Martin
19th David Jones
26th Philip Wren

August

2nd David Walters
9th Philip Wren
16th Charles Martin
– COMMUNION SERVICE
23rd Matthew Wren
30th Philip Wren

FlowerRota

Arranging

Distributing



July

5th Gladys Porter	Iris Bingham
12th Heather Swann	Heather Swann
19th Jean Baxter	Sue Tester
26th Fiona Tingley	Jacqueline Wood

August

2nd Winifred Scopes	Barbara Shepherd
9th Ann Parker	Margaret Gomme
16th Mies Campling	Kay Phillpot
23rd Chris Caswell	Jo Bloxham
30th Wedding flowers	Heather Swann

September

6th Jean Durrant	Iris Bingham
13th Zoe MacQuillin	Sue Tester
20th Audrey McKee	Jacqueline Wood
27th Harvest Festival	Barbara Shepherd

July-August church diary

4th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at URC

5th

Sunday 9.30am Charles Martin &
Communion
11.00am Charles Martin

**Away Day at Great Walstead
No Evening Service**

9th

Thursday 8.00pm Trevor Dickerson
Evangelism
Training

11th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at URC
7.30pm Mission Supper at
the Church

12th

Sunday 9.30am Randy Lawler from
O.M .Turning Point
11.00am Randy Lawler
6.30am Communion &
Healing Service -
Church –Charles
Martin

16th

Thursday 8.00pm Trevor Dickerson
Evangelism
Training

18th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at URC

19th

Sunday 9.30am David Walters
11.00am David Walters
6.30pm Ron Goodenough

25th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at URC

26th

Sunday 10.30am Mike Gardiner
Communion
6.30pm David Jones

28th

Tuesday 6.30pm In Touch Walk and
Supper

29th

Wednesday 2.45pm Afternoon
Fellowship
7.30pm Elders Meeting

August

1st

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at Evangelical Free

2nd

Sunday 10.30am Charles Martin &
Communion
6.30pm Evening Service -
Charles Martin

8th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at Evangelical Free

9th

Sunday

10.30am Charles Martin
6.30pm Charles Martin &
Communion

15th

Saturday

8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at Evangelical Free

16th

Sunday

10.30am David Walters
6.30pm Charles Martin –
Healing Service in
the Church

22nd

Saturday

8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at Evangelical Free

23rd

Sunday

10.30am Charles Martin &
Communion
6.30pm Charles Martin

29th

Saturday

8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at Evangelical Free

30th

Sunday

10.30am Charles Martin
6.30pm Charles Martin

**Please note one service in the
morning through August**

**OTHER LOCAL EVENTS
LISTED ON BACK COVER**

**GoodNEWS
Online**

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

www.lindfieldurc.org.uk

Baptism

Last month 3 members of the Church family were Baptised. Emma, Fiona and Iris write now very personally about their being baptised....

My thoughts on my Baptism

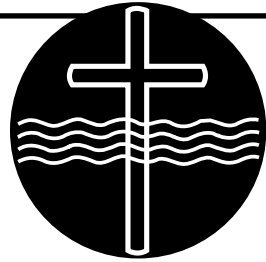
Oh happy day, I haven't stopped singing in my heart since my baptism. I keep grinning and feel as if I have had a wonderful hug from our heavenly father. The love of Christ is as high and as deep, as long and as wide - enough to reach every one of us, across the world forever, another song I feel!

Baptism is a beautiful testimony of what a heart has believed and what faith has received – a proclamation of God's saving grace, a declaration of obedience to Christ, and a celebration of a life that has been changed. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! How exciting.

Psalm 40 vs. 1-3 talk of waiting patiently for the lord, he put a new song in my mouth, praise to our God; many will see and trust in the Lord. It might seem easy to go through the wonderful experience of baptism, but it takes a lot of praying, to ask for forgiveness for anything that might be a barrier to receiving. I took a long hard look at my life which was not comfortable, but necessary, to deal with what might be wrong. I asked God to fill me with the Holy Spirit, which didn't happen at first. I felt unworthy. You have to go on seeking him until you find him, keep knocking on the door, seek God with all your heart. Persevere, I did.

Ephesians 6; 14 talks of 'the belt of truth', and John 8; 32 tells us 'the truth will set you free', this is the absolute truth and the way to lead our Christian lives. We must all be ambassadors and marshals for Christ, open, honest and set free. RCM – ready for Christ's mission.

Fiona Flett



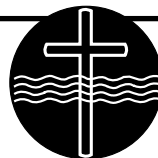
My Baptism

Church has been a huge part of my life for as long as I can remember and so becoming a Christian was quite a gradual process. Over a period of time I began to see that this God I had known of was far more powerful and loving than I could ever have imagined. This all was brought together when at the age of thirteen, whilst on a sort of Christianity Explored course for young people; I remember being really struck by the horrific suffering that Christ endured on the cross. Although I knew the story I had never even begun to comprehend the scale of the suffering. I was amazed and still am that Jesus would die in that way for me in order that I could be forgiven. I decided at this point that I wanted and needed God's forgiveness that he was offering me and put my trust in him completely.

Life has had huge ups and downs since I made that decision and I have been faced with decisions and situations I could not have handled in my own strength. It has been hugely comforting however, knowing that there is someone walking alongside you who is always there to lift you up. I sometimes look back and wonder how I would have got through without being able to just hand it all over to God.

Being baptised for me, was a way of showing publicly that this was my new life in Christ and to show just how much he is doing in my life and means to me. The whole service was so special and although I was really nervous, I knew that God was with me as I declared my faith in him. Despite the nerves I was so excited that I had the opportunity to publicly symbolise my old life dying and being raised to life with Christ. I just want to say also, a massive thank you for all the support that everyone in the church gives me, thank you for all the cards and messages – it means so much to be part of such a supportive church family.

Emma Nibloe



My baptism experience

The day had dawned, 7th June 2009; I felt extremely nervous but at the same time excited. That was the day that I came forward to give my testimony, a declaration of my faith. I felt speechless as I stood at the lectern to deliver my testimony, and saw the sea of faces before me. The Church was actually filled; nerves overtook me I began to shake like a leaf, and didn't know what to say. I managed to pull myself together, and I think I said "hello everyone", or words to that effect. However, I made it through to the end -although it seemed an infinite time before my ordeal was over; then I joined my dear sisters, Fiona and Emma, awaiting our cues to go down into the baptismal pool. When my turn came, I, rather inelegantly, clambered down the steps into the water; I remember David Walters giving me a hand; I laughed and said to him, "I'm like an old woman".

I sensed a great calm sweeping over me as I stood in the pool beneath the cross. Charles asked me to declare my faith in Jesus Christ as my Lord and saviour and then the procedure of being submerged under the water began. I shall never forget the sensation of the water washing over me, and the sound in my ears that sounded like rushing wind: yet, at the same time, it was all so gentle, calm and beautiful and I felt that I could stay in that moment forever. I now fully appreciate why Christians get so excited about baptism; it was an awe-inspiring experience that I shall never forget, and I have savoured that moment in my mind, many times since.

It was a wonderful and unforgettable service. I would like to thank all those involved who worked so diligently in preparing the ground for it: to all my church friends for their prayers, cards, love and encouragement, both before and after my baptism. I do thank God for my Christian family; but, most of all, I'm especially thankful to Him for His boundless love for me; and I am so glad that I obeyed His call to be baptised.

Yours in Christ Iris Bingham

From hobby to a new career

I've been a Senior Citizen since February last year receiving some of my pension from you kind taxpayers - thank you!

I started my career in 1960 with Spillers, with the launch of new cat foods (remember Arthur, the white cat?) and the extension of bowler-hatted "Fred the Flour Grader" into products other than flour.

I continued my marketing career with Smedley HP Foods, but when they moved lock, stock and barrel to Wisbech, I joined Armour Foods based in London, who marketed many catering products, especially corned beef. All went well here for several years and I enjoyed my job in marketing in what was and still is, a young man's career, until 1983 when the company experienced a severe down turn and several of us were made redundant,

Fortunately I wasn't out of work for long and I joined Parker Pen in Newhaven as their Marketing Services Manager trying to persuade customers to buy middle and upmarket pens and rollerballs, certainly not Bic Biro's. After three fairly happy years there though, Parker merged two offices and as I was less experienced than some, redundancy hit me and my family again.

I was eventually offered the opportunity

to go over to the other side of the desk to join one of the design companies used by Parker Pen as their representative and managed to get design and print work from local companies such as Allez France Holidays, Alliance and Leicester, Van den Berghs and Visionhire. Again, all went well for quite a while, but, one by one, the companies we dealt with were relocated or taken over and the company I worked for went bust and.....you guessed it!

I was now 47 with a long suffering, but very supportive wife and two teenage children to support. Frankly, I had had enough of the business and marketing world at that time, and I still had another eighteen years before retirement!

Why am I telling you all about my career experiences? Well, I hope and believe that I can help people who, in the present slump, are nervous about their future, maybe facing the possibility of redundancy or, worse have already lost their job, by drawing on my situation.

When you are first made redundant it is like having the rug you thought was firmly beneath your feet, suddenly whipped away from you so that you land on your back. What to do? Where to go? How will we

A new career forms

manage? I was at a real crossroads at a time when the general economy was far from bright.. There was no Internet to call upon and jobs seemed scarce. I felt guilty that I was letting my family down, although they never ever said that, angry and felt that life was quite unfair. Why me, Lord. Why again?

Meanwhile, with the help and prayers of my family and faithful friends in the church, I was able to get back on track and focus on my situation. In particular I found the third verse of 'Amazing Grace' inspired me:

Through many dangers, toils and snares

I have already come;

'Tis grace that brought me home thus far,

and grace will lead me home.

Many Psalms also inspired me, but especially Psalm 121: 'I lift up mine eyes to the hills - where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip.....'

Of course, there was help at hand! I only had to ask.

I drew up a plan that was almost military in its precision and worked from 9 - 5 each day sending my CV to a large number of companies and scanning job adverts in newspapers. My situation also gave me an opportunity to self-assess and to consider:

- did I want to go back to marketing again? Too old.

- did I want to get involved in design and print again? Not really.
- did I have other interests and even hobbies that I could pursue as a career? Maybe.....maybe.

Whilst I was waiting for replies and interviews, I also kept myself busy decorating other peoples homes, gardening, the 1991 Census and also had helpful advice from friends and family. The main thing was to talk (hopefully without boring people!) and not to bottle-up problems.

Then, one day, in 1990 I saw an advertisement for a Plant Sales Manager at Paradise Park, Newhaven. The post required one to have a good knowledge of plants, sales promotions and marketing experience and to have previously worked in a garden centre/nursery. Interesting, but I was hardly qualified for the job! However, after much thought and prayer I went for it and applied. Surprise, surprise they hired me and I never looked back, spending seventeen really happy years with them. It pays to think laterally.

If you are at a serious crossroad in your life, pray hard, consider what you enjoy doing and whether you need a change. If anyone reading this article wants to have a chat, as I did with several people in this church and community, don't hesitate to contact me and I'll try to be a good listener.

Stuart Marsh



Boys' Brigade

The Barnabas Trust runs Christian activity centres for young people, one of which is located at Halls Green near Sevenoaks. For a couple of years past, it has been the location for a weekend holiday for Juniors organised by the Brighton BB Battalion, and a group of our lads was among the 50 or so who went at the end of April. The excellent accommodation provided a kitchen, dining room, games hall, dormitory block, and indoor swimming pool. Activities included an adventure course – in which some Boys were delighted to get thoroughly soaked and muddy! – model aeroplane making, and this year, for the first time, canoeing on the newly constructed boating lake, which the lads specially enjoyed. We were blessed with good weather, and came home thoroughly tired but happy.

The Company Section have taken part in scripture and drill competitions, and Alexander Pippard was the runner up in the Squad Medal Competition, where a Squad Commander drills a squad of up to 6 Boys. We also took part in the Athletics

Championships at Withdean Stadium, at which a good team effort brought us 3rd place, the highest position we have attained for some years. We are now into our summer programme: games most Monday evenings at Hickmans Lane Recreation Ground, together with wide games, bowling, paintballing, expedition training, and weekend camping, the Battalion Harriers Cross Country run, and, of course, summer camp at Glynde.

Rob Drake was our Chief Guest at our Display in early May, when we presented the first batch of the Discovery Badges, a new award for Boys who have served two years in the Company Section. The Roberts trophy is now for the best uniform of the session, and this year it was shared by Wesley Heyward and Thomas Hewitt; Wesley Heyward and Louis Haddrell were also given prizes for perfect attendance.

We are very much in need of staff for Juniors and Anchors, and if anyone can help, or knows of anyone who they think can help, we would like to know. The Boys are there, but the potential they represent can only be realised by adequate adult staff.

Geoffrey Cocksedge

Sunshine Plants For Lazy

Now it's the second half of the year and time to ease up a bit and enjoy the fruits of your labours - literally if you grow fruit and vegetables, and also the flowers in your garden.

Many plants survive quite happily in near drought conditions. They need little water and so are real labour savers. Ideal if you are going on holiday or if you don't have time to regularly water your plants, or if you are on a water-meter. They all appreciate hot, dry and sunny sites.

Many silver-leafed shrubs enjoy such conditions. Try:

- ☀ Artemisia Abrotarium: which has aromatic foliage.
- ☀ Caryopteris: with blue flowers in late summer
- ☀ Cistus (Sun Rose): rose-like flowers. Try C. Silver Pink.
- ☀ Convolvulus: white or blue-flowered shrub (not the weed!)
- ☀ Helianthemum (Rock Rose): low growing with bright long-flowering rose-like blooms.
- ☀ Lavandula (Lavender): go for old English varieties - much better and more weather-resistant than the French ones.
- ☀ Santolina (Cotton Lavender): silvery, woolly, finely dissected flowers with bright lemon-yellow

flowers.

- ☀ Senecio: low, lax growing, tough shrub with bright yellow daisies.

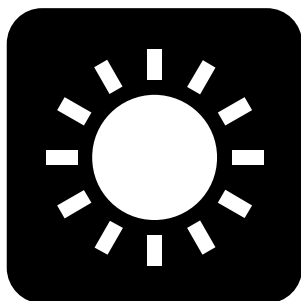
What other shrubs are there which thrive whilst having very little water and enjoying strong sunshine? Any shrubs that have tough, leathery leaves or thorns. Try:

- ☀ Berberis ('Barberry'): orangey spring flowers and mostly purple-coloured fruits in late summer.
- ☀ Cytisus (Brooms): many varieties with pea-shaped, sometimes fragrant flowers.
- ☀ Eleagnus: variegated or plain leaves with insignificant white flowers.
- ☀ Roses: need very little water, but watch out for black spot!

Climbers that enjoy a dry spot include:

- ☀ Ceanothus (Californian Lilac): one of the few blue climbing flowers.
- ☀ Fremontodendron: with huge saucer-shaped yellow flowers.
- ☀ Hedera (Ivy): you either like it or you don't! Self-clinging - watch out for tile disturbance.
- ☀ Wisteria: aristocratic climber with soft blue/pale mauve fairly transient flowers.

Days



Some other taller growing drought-loving herbaceous plants include Achillea, Cleome, Cosmos, Helianthus (sunflower) and Verbascum (mullein).

Some annuals that like sunshine include Eschscholzia, Gazania, Lampranthus, Mesembryanthemum, Nasturtium and Portulaca.

If you have a conservatory or cool greenhouse, you may like to create a Mediterranean atmosphere by having some:

- ☀️ Bougainvillea: with its purple, red or white bracts (not flowers).
- ☀️ Citrus fruits: especially Meyer's Lemon or Satsuma Oranges.
- ☀️ Nerium (Oleander): a poisonous plant with white, pink or red flowers.

These can have a holiday outside in your garden, but need a minimum temperature of 10c (50f) in the winter - they are not house plants and need a rest during the cooler months.

You don't need to be a slave to your garden with all these sunlovers but remember, in their earlier days, just after planting, they do need watering in. Don't overdo it as they can become too water-dependent, like all other plants.

Next month: Living Furniture

Stuart Marsh

Christian garden to visit

Now that you've got your garden under your belt, why not visit a nearby garden that is open for local charities under the **National Gardens Scheme. The Charities helped include cancer care, gardeners and other carers.**

The eight acre gardens are at 'Latchetts', near Danehill, signposted from Walstead, and are owned by a Christian couple, Laurence and Rebeka Hardy. Imaginative variety with excellent upkeep and facilities make this a very popular and delightful garden. The well-known home-produced teas are also a great draw! Humour and references to the joyful Christian faith of the owners are also much appreciated.

Remaining open days for this summer are : Fridays and Saturdays 17/18 July and 7/8 August from 1.30-5.30pm. Admission is £4 - well-priced, bearing in mind that over £50,000 has been raised at 'Latchetts' over the past twelve years.

Do go, an opportunity not to be missed.

Stuart & Carol Marsh

Book Reviews

Whilst lazing around on your summer holidays, you may well find time for some reading. If you come across a really interesting spiritual book that you can recommend do tell us about it by writing a short review for Good News so that we can all discover it for ourselves (about 400 words or so).

The copy date for the September issue is 12th August, so you have plenty of time to catch up on a book or two!
Happy Reading!
Carol Marsh

Summer Car Outing and Tea

This annual event will be held this year on Tuesday, 18th August, from 3 –5.30pm. Personal invitations are usually distributed, but if by chance you have not received one and would like to be taken on a ride into the Sussex countryside, followed by a Tea in the Church Hall, please do contact Heather Swann (450335) or Fiona Tingley (483419).

As usual we will be looking for car drivers and volunteers to help with the tea and make cakes, etc, so if you are able to assist, we would be glad to hear from you.

*With many thanks,
The Pastoral Group*

Usefull thinking space for the †Word to come!___

Word

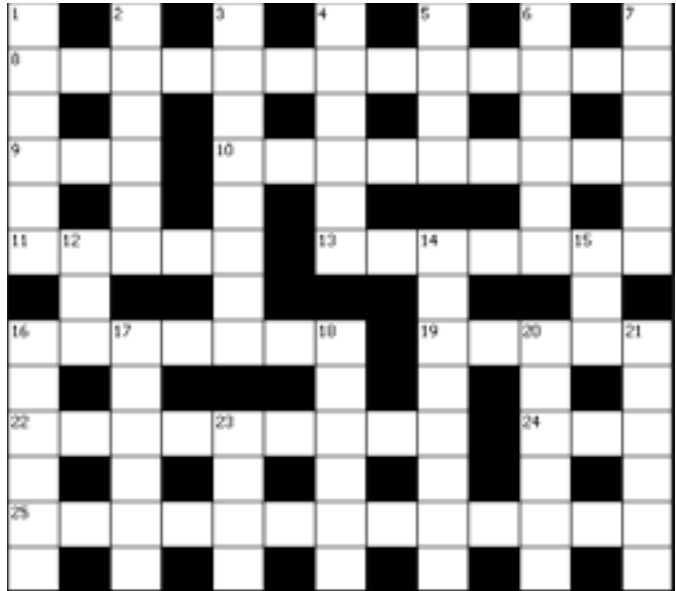
Across

- 8 Academic who studies history of one of Israels perennial enemies (13)
- 9 Take to court (Matthew 5:40) (3)
- 10 Absence of guilt (1 Kings 8:32) (9)
- 11 Of Tim (anag.) (5)
- 13 Deprive priest of ecclesiastical status (7)
- 16 Where Paul and Barnabas called en route from Perga to Antioch (Acts 14:25 26) (7)
- 19 25 The earth is the ___ ___, and everything in it (Psalm 24:1) (5)

- 22 25 Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a message when the body of elders laid their _____ hands on you (1 Timothy 4:14) (9)
- 24 Raincoat (abbrev.) (3)
- 25 Issue relating to sexual ethics dealt with in the controversial Papal Encyclical Humanae Vitae in 1968(13)

Down

- 1 25 The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a _____ for many (Matthew 20:28) (6)
- 2 Upward slope (Nehemiah 3:19) (6)
- 3 25 God blessed them and said to them, Be _____ and increase in number (Genesis 1:28) (8)
- 4 25 What God has _____ together, let man not separate (Matthew 19:6) (6)
- 5 One of the partners which, with BEA, formed British Airways (1,1,1,1)
- 6 25 This will be a _____ you. You will

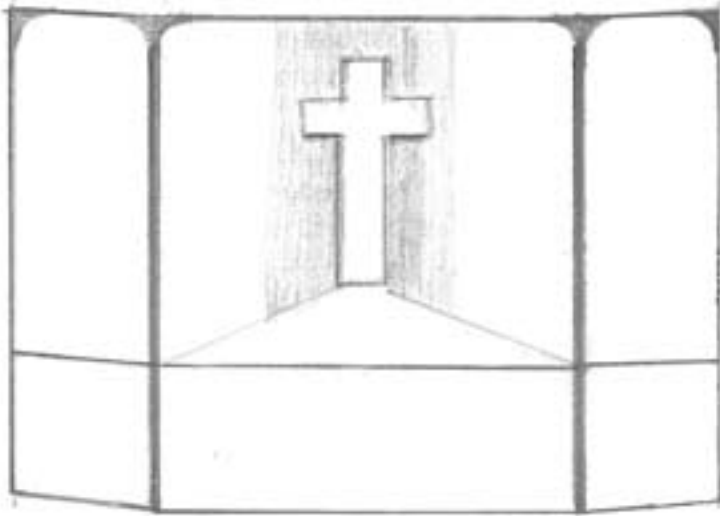


- find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger (Luke 2:12) (4,2)
- 7 Takers (anag.) (6)
- 12 25 But the things that come of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man unclean (Matthew 15:18) (3)
- 14 25 Then I set bowls _____ of wine and some _____ before the men of the Recabite family (Jeremiah 35:5) (4,4)
- 15 Levitical eating laws were much concerned about animals 25 that chew the _____ (Leviticus 11:3) (3)
- 16 Llama-like animal noted for its wool (6)
- 17 The seed which fell among these was choked by them as it grew (Luke 8:7) (6)
- 18 Launch an assault against (Genesis 14:15) (6)
- 20 25 Neither can you bear fruit unless you _____ in me (John 15:4) (6)
- 21 John says of the healing of the royal officials son, 25 This was the miraculous sign that Jesus performed (John 4:54) (6)
- 23 Inflict pain on (Acts 7:26) (4)

Answers on page 28

Anniversary Weekend Exhibition

Request for information from
Brian and Sue Tester...



Friday, 12 June 2009 PAST and PRESENT. In conjunction with the Church's Anniversary Weekend in October 2009 there is planned an exhibition of the history and development of nonconformist worship in Lindfield. It is intended that the exhibition will illustrate past events and celebrations and current and future activities of the church. It would be greatly appreciated if photographs and other memorabilia of past events could be provided (originals will be copied) for possible display.

Please contact either **Brian or Sue Tester** (Tel : 01444 482810 ~ e-mail: brian@bmtester.co.uk) 38 Finches Park Road, Lindfield, West Sussex RH16 2DN or **Rosemary Davies** (Tel: 01444 482024 ~ e-mail: rosemary.a.davies@btopenworld.com)

A photograph of the Girls Brigade 1969 has been provided. Can you help to identify anyone in the photograph?



Girls Brigade 1969

The back page

'A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek.

She was alternatively stroking her own cheek, then his again. Finally she spoke up, "Grandpa, did God make you ?"

"Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago."

"Oh", she paused. "Grandpa, did God make me too ?"

"Yes, indeed, my dear," he said. "God made you just a little while ago."

Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't he ?"

The Fellowship

The last meeting of this session is on Wednesday 22nd July at 2.45pm when we are to have a 'Garden Tea'. We hope the sun will shine and we can enjoy a good time together, and we look forward to meeting old and new friends.

Winifrid Scopes

In Touch

"In Touch" ladies are looking forward to an informal evening in the garden of John and Heather Barling at 15 Backwoods Lane, Lindfield. This will be on 24th June from 7:00pm (note the earlier time).

ALL ladies very welcome...

23 Hurt
21 Second
20 Remain
18 Attack
17 Thorns
16 Alpaca
15 Cud
14 Full cups
12 Out
7 Streak
6 Sign to
5 BOAC
4 Joined
3 Fruitful
2 Ascent
1 Ransom

DOWN

25 Contraception
24 Mac
22 Prophetic
19 Lord s
16 Attalla
13 Detrock
11 Motif
10 Innocence
9 Sue
8 Assyriologist

ACROSS

Answers to
crossword on
page 25

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

Local events



The United Reformed Church Art Group

Saturday 11th July

We are holding a coffee morning and Art display on **Saturday 11th July** from 10am – 12pm to which all are invited. Do come along and support this event, where you will receive a warm welcome.

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 Life** is also available from around the village.