

GoodNEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

JUNE 2009



Taking back the initiative **Christian Faith and Science**

PLUS...

- Find out about a Special Anniversary
- On their bikes!!
- More Messy Church

FREE
PLEASE HELP YOURSELF

Seen here with Angus, John and Charlie (at the end of last year's London to Brighton Bike Ride) are (from top left) Janina, Dom, Jonathan & Alex, Nick and Jon & Paula who are all in the June 2009. 'Lindfield URC+Friends' cycle team, raising money for the British Heart Foundation.



Dear Friends...



If you can, will you be voting in the local Council and European Parliamentary elections on June 4th? Given the level of public cynicism about politics and politicians, I suspect many people will be staying at home. The current furore over MPs' expenses will only add to that cynicism and there seems very little anyone can do to stem the tide.

I find all this very disturbing for a number of reasons. First of all, it's bitterly unfair on the vast majority of politicians, who are not corrupt and who are trying to do a difficult job to the best of their ability. On the other hand, it's clear that in some cases, the present rules for claiming Parliamentary expenses have been manipulated. The saddest part of it all for me, is to hear politicians say "It was all done within the rules". That's as maybe, but what does that say about the rules? They are eager now to change them. I am tempted to ask whether they would be so eager, had their expense claims not been subject to such public scrutiny, but maybe that merely reveals my own level of cynicism.

The second thing that disturbs me, is the damage cynicism does to the democratic process. Democracy is very precious. To be able to hold our leaders to account is a tremendous privilege. If we allow disenchantment with

politicians to alienate us totally and we stop voting altogether, we open ourselves to two great dangers.

First, if voter turn-out falls even further, we run the risk of losing the opportunity to vote. After all, if fewer and fewer voters participate, what is the point in having an election? Second, there is the danger that a low poll gives extremist parties (of both right and left) a much better chance of being successful.

Just in case you get worried and have to turn to the front page of this magazine to check you are not reading an election address, let me explain why I think all this is crucial for Christians to understand and act upon. The Christian Faith can never be a cosy way to escape from the world. It is a challenge to us all to get stuck in and change the world. Remember what Jesus said about salt and light. If we hide our light or lose our saltiness, we ourselves will be held to account.

My own political allegiance is a closely guarded secret, but I will most certainly be voting on June 4th. Men and women have given their lives to give me that opportunity and I do not intend to waste it. In spite of the growing level of cynicism, I would challenge you to do the same.

Your Pastor and friend,
Charles S. Martin

GoodNEWS

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Editorial



Whew! I have just finished putting the magazine into some kind of order - talk about being packed to the gunnels. There is not a spare millimetre of paper this month and that is with extra pages being added. So especial thanks to Tom for collating and sorting the finished magazine.

It would appear that everything is about to happen or has only just happened. So read all about it here! If you didn't get to an event you can read about it here and if you want to know what to go to next you can find out about it here too.

In addition to news and events past and future Matt has written a really informative and helpful article on Faith and Science. There is much for us to think about in this article.

We have Fire Alarm warnings, Book reviews, gardening tips and Charles revealing more secrets from his ministerial past!

This magazine may require more than a cup of coffee with it, at least a biscuit or two (chocolate for preference) for sustenance would be recommended!

Val

Prayer **FOCUS**



Just as food is essential for our bodily growth and maintenance, so prayer is a “MUST” for the nurture of our Christian life. Jesus said about prayer; But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. Matt 6v. 6

Hopefully these prayers will help.

PRaise

With heart, mind and soul may we in the quiet enter the realm of praise to our awesome Creator God. When we consider all your works; from the beginning of time, the beauty in nature, the myriad animals that give us daily pleasure. Above all, that you are God the Father, sending your only Son, the Lord Jesus into this world as a Saviour, making the supreme sacrifice for each of our sakes. Going to the Cross and leaving us the Holy Spirit, to guide and direct our way through life. This life with its sorrows and joys, 'Bless the Lord O my Soul, Bless and Praise His Name in all the Earth.'

CONFESS

Lord, however we look at our life, we know we fall short of your life for us. There are things we would not like displayed on a wall for all to see, but you see them. So we confess; we seek your forgiveness through the sacrifice You made on the Cross. This can come to us as the amazing "GIFT OF GOD" Eph 2v.8. Forgive us for our weak, often distracted prayers, but still You are there, ever present.

"Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit.

INTERCEDE

May we claim through the Holy Spirit in praying for folks in greater need than ourselves. It is our privilege to 'carry everything (and every one) to God in prayer.'

For the many known to us Lord, with health problems; may Your Grace be sufficient for their needs.

For our community of Lindfield, where there can be hidden problems related to drugs and alcoholism

For marriages that are finding relationships difficult.

For single Mums (and Dads) with children, we bear them up before You.

For all children and teenagers, that home may be a haven.

Lord the praying Spirit, breathe
Your watching power impart,
From all difficulties beneath
Call off our anxious hearts

John Blake

Christian Faith and Science: Taking Back the Initiative

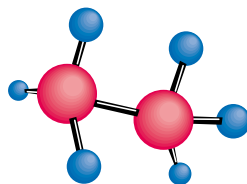
A Fight to the Death

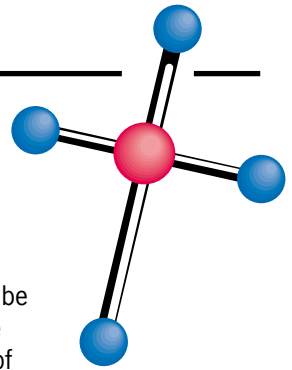
Christian faith and science are in a fight to the death. Or so the pundits would like us to believe. From their perspective, science and Christian faith are like boxers in the ring, each trying to deliver the knockout punch. But the problem with this perspective is that it assumes two equally matched opponents, and this is not the case. Imagine if one of the Royal gardeners decided that he was going to take over Buckingham Palace. Armed with a Flymo, and a pair of secateurs he attempts a coup-d'état. It would not work. He would be hopelessly outclassed. I choose this analogy purposely because science is meant to be a servant of Christ. Revelation 4:11 says: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." The created order illustrates the worthiness of God to receive glory. Science is the study of the created order, and so its proper role is to enhance this

display of God's worthiness. But the tragedy is that we Christians have allowed the aggressive scientists to take the initiative. We are fighting on their terms. Consider the analogy of the megalomaniac gardener. Imagine if the Queen's guards (the ones with the funny bearskin hats) decided to meet this display of overwhelming horticultural force with hand trowels and bean poles. Faced with the fearsome sight of a bright orange Flymo roaring towards them, they might have good reason to be scared. But the Queen's guards are armed with automatic machine guns. If they use the right weapons they cannot lose. We Christians have allowed Science to dictate the agenda. We have let them determine how we approach the Bible.

It's All About Authority

As with most arguments, the clash of Christian faith and science is all about authority. Ultimately, who is right? For the Christian, the question of authority is bound up with





the person and work of Jesus Christ. The crucial fact is the resurrection. In 1 Corinthians 15:14 Paul says: "And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. . . . But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead . . ." The resurrection underpins the whole of Christian faith. Without it, our faith is useless. But as Paul says, "Christ has indeed been raised" (verse 20). We have the testimony of the Apostles, men who died for their testimony, that Jesus was raised from the dead. You do not die for something you know to be a lie. The resurrection validates everything else Jesus said and did. Why do I know that the Bible is the inerrant word of God? I know it because Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus gives the crucial testimony that the Old Testament is God's trustworthy word (e.g., Mark 10:6). Jesus gives the crucial testimony that the apostolic writings (the New Testament) carry his authority (John 16:13-15).

The Priesthood of Science

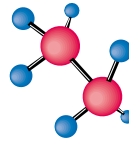
But science has its own claim of authority. In the eyes of many people, if modern science tells

us something, then it must be so. We have today what we might call the "Priesthood of Science." There are those with doctorates from venerable institutions, and they are the priests of science. And they are right. Well, as a person who has a doctorate from a venerable institution (Oxford University), I say this perception of scientific authority is total rubbish. Do not misunderstand me, I am not saying that science has nothing to offer (heart transplants, the Apollo 11 mission and the microchip demonstrate otherwise). What I am saying though is that the popular perception of the authority of science is wrong. Let me illustrate with my own development as a scientist.

There Must Be Someone Who Knows the Answer . . .

When I was 14, I had unshakable confidence that my science teachers knew the answer to every question. I can still remember my disillusionment when I asked my science teacher whether electrons actually move round a wire like water round a hose pipe. He did not know the answer. But no matter,

Feature Article – Christian Faith and Science —



even if he does not know the answer, I thought, there are other scientists who will. Fast forward 4 years to a visit to Birmingham University (as I remember). This time I wanted to know whether time was distorted by the gravitational pull of a black hole. I bounced up to one of the professors and posed my question. He did not know the answer. I was shocked. Maybe the high priests of science did not know as much as I thought they did. As I went up to Oxford University as an undergraduate in 1994, my understanding of the limits of scientific knowledge only increased. You might say that my scientific education was a process of coming to understand how little we understand. At least in my undergraduate education my professors were teaching me things that modern science claims to understand. But when I started a doctorate at Oxford, I was working on the front lines of science. I realised that there are vast amounts of existence we have hardly begun to understand.

The Nature of Scientific Theory

But this was actually quite exhilarating. After all, if we

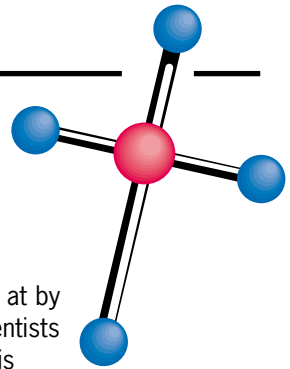
know everything already, what is the point of studying anything?

On the contrary, the nature of the scientific enterprise is the search for surprise. You actually want to find evidence that your theories are wrong, so that you can improve your theory. Before we go any further, the term “scientific theory” needs to be properly understood.

In the public consciousness the “theory” of evolution, has come to mean the “unassailable factual account” of evolution.

But in scientific enquiry, we start with a set of observations, and we construct a theory that will explain them. We make predictions about observations we have not observed yet based on that theory. Then we test the theory by making these new observations. If the observations turn out as we expected, the theory is unchanged (boring but useful). If the observations turn out differently, we get to fiddle with our theory (exciting and useful). The theory can never make categorical statements about the way the world is.

All it can do is say: “This is how the world appears to be today. Tomorrow, we might see something that causes us to



completely rewrite the theory.” And that is why I think those aggressive scientists who say the theory of evolution disproves the existence of God are not making a scientific statement. They are making a faith statement.

Scientific Revolution

It is in fact very dangerous to be too attached to your particular theory. The history of science is littered with examples of scientists who staked their reputations on one particular theory. Even Albert Einstein fell afoul of this when, concerning Quantum Mechanics, he said: “God does not play dice” (in a letter to Max Born, December 1926). In a very real sense he was wrong. My favourite example of scientific revolution is Louis Pasteur. In the 19th century, the scientific understanding of why organic things rotted, and grew all that wonderfully bright green fuzzy stuff was a theory called “spontaneous generation.” They thought the meat just “grew” mold spontaneously. A French scientist, Louis Pasteur, said that he thought tiny organisms (e.g., germs or mold spores) were landing on the meat, and causing

the mould. He was laughed at by practically all the other scientists of his day. He was right. It is much better as a scientist to remain open minded about the future, and not to make categorical truth claims about the nature of the Universe. That privilege belongs to the creator of the Universe.

Who Has the Initiative?

Let us go back again to our megalomaniac gardener. I said that we Christians are like the Queen’s Guards who have decided to fight back with hand trowels and bean poles. How have the aggressive scientists got the initiative? They are dictating to us how to approach the Bible. They say: “In this place in the Bible it says X, but science says Y. Therefore the Bible is wrong, and God does not exist.” We Christians are rocked back on the defensive by this attack, and we often respond solely by arguing about X and Y. But that means we approach the Bible on the terms of the aggressive scientists. Let me give an example. Many Christians approach the first 12 chapters of the book of Genesis as a series of physical statements

which need to be proved in the face of scientific criticism. And this is quite dangerous because in order to convert Genesis 1-12 into a series of physical statements we need to do a considerable amount of interpretation. But is this how God intended Genesis 1-12 to be approached? Who were the original audience? For what purpose did God write Genesis?

Theological, not Scientific

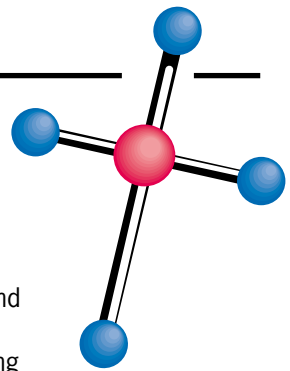
The original audience were the people of Israel, on the plains of Moab, just about to enter the promised land. They had totally messed it up 40 years previously, and had wandered until an entire sinful generation passed away (Deuteronomy 1:35). They were about to come face to face with an aggressive Canaanite world-view. The biggest single danger for the people of Israel on the plains of Moab was not the spears of the Canaanites, it was idolatry. Into this situation, God gives Moses the book of Genesis. And what does it say? “In the beginning God . . .” In the beginning “your God,” not the so called gods of the Canaanites, but “your God.” The only God. The main point

of Genesis 1-12 is theological and not scientific. Then what we discover is that this does in fact meet the basic attack of the aggressive scientist. Our God did create everything, and he has authority over everything. Evolution is not the explanation for how everything came to be. But Genesis 1-12 does not meet the aggressive scientist on his terms, it meets him on God's terms. In time those terms will inevitably lead him to Jesus Christ.



Its OK to say “I don’t know.”

So we must not meet the aggressive scientists on their terms. Now this does not mean that Genesis 1-12 does not have any physical implications. For example in Romans 5:12, Paul clearly believes that Adam was a real man. This is authoritative interpretation. And so when the aggressive scientist says that the existence of Adam is impossible, he must be countered (there are other examples). But this cannot be our sole response. We need to take the initiative. It is in fact OK to say “I don’t know the answer to your question.” Because what we then need to say is “But I do know this: there



was an actual historical man, Jesus Christ, who said he was the son of God, and proved it by rising from the dead. We have all sinned and deserve hell. But by his death he has saved us. It is our delight and our created purpose to serve and glorify him." It is OK not to know the answer to every criticism of the aggressive scientist because the resurrection guarantees that there is an answer, and more importantly there is a much more important question. What we need to do is to move the argument away from scientific detail, and onto Jesus Christ. In practice, I think this means we need to be more humble and winsome in our dialogue. When we are not sure about something, we need to humbly, but confidently say "I don't know." If the Holy Spirit is working on that person, he will give us or someone else an opportunity to address the much more important question.

The Flymo and the Machine Gun

So what became of the megalomaniac gardener, armed with a Flymo and a pair of secateurs? I am pretty

sure he came to a sticky end when the Queen's guards realised they should be using their automatic machine guns instead of their hand trowels. We need to approach the word of God as it is supposed to be approached. Science does not have the ultimate authority. The resurrection proves this. In fact, good science never makes categorical truth claims concerning observations it has not made yet. So let us come to the Bible on God's terms: "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12). No-one has ever been won for the kingdom by being bludgeoned with scientific argument about the physical details of Genesis 1-12. But many people will be won for the kingdom when, by the Holy Spirit, they come face to face with the risen Christ in the Word of God.

Mat Martin

Feba

.....broadcasting hope

Feba UK is a Christian charity, which enables the broadcasting of radio programmes and audience relations to address people's physical and spiritual needs in Africa, Asia and the Middle East in 40 different languages. It brings the good news of Jesus to people in a language they understand, or are visually challenged.

The programme content ranges from Bible teaching to farming techniques, leadership skills and training to health care. Whatever the content, the purpose is to communicate God's love.

Feba is a network of eleven interdependent national organisations bases worldwide. The work is co-ordinated from regional centres which allow the producers to share the same cultural issues as their audience; they also appreciate the same values, traditions and fears as their listeners.

Most of the programmes are made in partnership with other church and mission radio teams who provide programmes that

are then broadcast by Feba.

Feba's work includes a number of specialist activities including The Specialist English Project. This programme is intended for listeners with a limited understanding of English. It uses a simplified form of English and is ideal for listeners wishing to improve their knowledge.

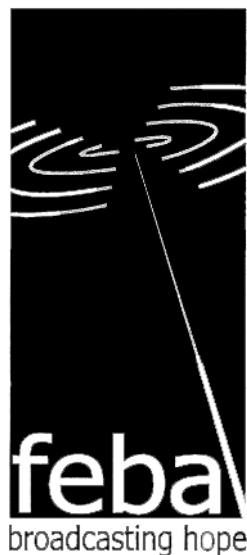
Feba Audio Systems Team is based in England and provides specialist support to teams of Christian groups in the field. One recent development is a suitcase sized studio suitable for use in remote locations. The radio programmes use shortwave frequencies in kHz. Each language is 'beamed' to give the strongest signal where it is needed most and can be changed at short notice and quickly, should the need arise.

Feba covers India, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and South Africa to name a few.

Our prayers and financial support is always greatly appreciated by the team at Feba, particularly in this difficult climate, reaching our brothers and sisters across the world.

We have so much freedom to read the bible, listen to the radio or to choose the channel we listen to. How privileged are we? For more information please see the Missions display in the concourse or visit www.feba.org.uk.

If you would like to give towards the work of Feba please use the special envelopes and place your gift in the offertory at any Sunday service. Please also complete a gift aid if appropriate. Thank you for your support.



OM's new ship, **Logos Hope**, will be in London Docks from 12th – 28th June.

Opening hours are:

Tuesday – Saturday:

10.00 – 22.00

Sunday: 14.00 – 22.00

Monday: Closed



The ship will be berthed at South Key, Off Marsh Wall, London E14 9SH.

Visitors are welcome during opening hours.

More information can be found on the OM Website:

www.uk.om.org



Messy Church : Summer

Saturday June 13th : 4:15pm

We are holding another Messy Church afternoon on Saturday June 13th – Doors open at 4:00pm with an hour of craft and mess from 4:15pm. The afternoon will conclude with a brief celebration followed by a meal.

Messy Church is an event for the whole family to come to together; 0-10s have a wide range of craft activities which will get everyone 'stuck-in'. 11-14s are invited upstairs to Media Church which uses the young people's creativity and storytelling skills to express the theme using audio and video technology to create YouTube clips. Parents, carers and grandparents accompany the children and everyone gets the chance to get to try everything for themselves.

This time we will be looking at the parable of the wise and foolish builders – building, painting, making and sticking ourselves to learn 'messy style' that building your life on the right foundation means to follow Jesus.

As it is summer we are encouraging everyone to bring their shades (whatever the weather!)

Dan McQuillin



“Freely you have received. Freely Give”

– Giving for the Youth Pastor

On May 10th, the Pastor preached directly on the matter of giving to pay for the Youth Pastor. The Church Meeting has agreed that from May 31st to June 7th, we will have a week of prayer and giving, culminating in a Gift Day on Sunday June 7th. On that day we will also be opening our Baptistry, so it should be a great celebration.

This will be a real challenge for many, especially taking into account the effects of the economic down-turn, but we cannot duck the responsibility of providing extra ministry to our young people. Please give generously and if you are a tax-payer, make sure that your gift is covered by the gift-aid scheme. This will increase it by 28%.

Strawberry Tea

If you have recently begun to worship with us here at Lindfield URC (say the last six months or so), you are invited to join the Elders and their spouses for a Strawberry Tea on Sunday 14th June at 3.30pm in the Church Lounge (and garden weather permitting), when we hope then to get to know each other a little better.

Do join with us if you are able.

Reminder!!

After the Baptismal Service on Sunday 7th June there will be a Bring and Share lunch. Do Come.

Week of Prayer

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven, I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7v14)



The annual Week of Prayer for Parliament and Government will take place from 7 to 12 June and a number of events will be held in and around Parliament to help focus prayer, 24/7, on our political leaders. Christians from across political parties and Whitehall departments will come together to intercede for our nation and for those in positions of responsibility. This is also a great occasion for churches to have a particular focus on praying for politics and parliament. For further information including lots of downloadable resources for Churches and personal daily prayer suggestions visit:

www.christiansinparliament.org.uk

comeasyouare

Faith in the Future

"Come as you are" is the theme of this year's Back to Church Sunday and on September 27th 2009 thousands of people will be inviting someone special back to church with them. People lose touch with church for all sorts of reasons but millions would come back with an invitation. On Back to Church Sunday 2008, people in 3,000 churches invited and welcomed back 37,000 friends. Wouldn't it be great to get even larger

numbers back to Church this year! There is lots of information available on:

www.backtochurch.co.uk

Comment from one lady on entering church - "It only needed something like this to get me through the door!" St Peter, Darby End - Dudley

"Several people turned up without knowing quite why, and were very glad they did. Many of the visitors had a fresh view of what church could be and, we hope, a clearer idea of why we believe in God." Kirkheaton Parish Church - Huddersfield

I just got out of the habit of going to church and have been thinking about coming to church for a while. Mike's invitation was just what I needed. I'll definitely be back. "Returner to St John - Jersey.

Together on a Mission



From 8th-10th June Newfrontiers' annual conference gathers more than 5,000 delegates from 50 nations in Brighton for inspiring teaching, worship and ministry. All are welcome as the event is made up of two strands: one is for students and young adults, the other is for those in leadership roles, from pastors to administrators to children's workers. For more information on Newfrontiers go to: www.newfrontiers.xtn.org

Muslim to head up BBC religious programmes

The BBC has broken with tradition by appointing a Muslim for the first time to be the head of its religious programming, despite the concerns of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The new head of religious programmes at the BBC will be Aaqil Ahmed, who made religious programmes for Channel 4. In the past Mr Ahmed has campaigned for a higher Islamic presence in the media. Last year the BBC also appointed Tommy Nagra, a Sikh, to present Songs of Praise, which is the BBC's most popular and longest running religious programme.

Earlier this year the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, warned Mark Thompson, the Director General of the BBC, about sidelining the Christian audience. Both Dr Williams and the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, have spoken out about the way Christianity can face indifference and even hostility from the government and other institutions. A Church of England spokesman said of the appointment of Mr Ahmed, "We will judge the new man by his output rather than his label," reports the Daily Mail.

Interestingly, in an unrelated story the head of Channel 4, Andy Duncan, has said that Christians need to engage more with the media and keep up-to-date with new media technologies in order to further promote their cause. Duncan, who attends a Baptist church in Croydon, also said that TV programmes about religion often did not have high audiences, reports Baptist Times.



Christianity on the soap box

The UK's top two TV soaps both have positive storylines featuring evangelical Christians. What's going on? Justin Thacker, who is advising Coronation Street and EastEnders producers, explains... "Cool, sexy and very popular." This isn't the description of an evangelical Christian you would normally expect to see in the Daily Star, but when soap opera characters turn to God, they can get the kind of press most Christian leaders can only dream of.

Brooke Vincent, who plays 16-year-old Sophie Webster in Coronation Street, uses these words to describe her on-screen boyfriend, committed Christian Ben Richardson, in an interview with the Star. The soap's storyline sees Sophie become attracted to Christianity after meeting Ben, a good-looking school swimming team captain who takes her to his church youth club.

Her parents nearly choke on their pasta when she tells them she's going to follow Jesus. "Why, where's he going?" quips her dad Kevin, while mum Sally's eyes get progressively wider as she hears her younger daughter has taken a vow of chastity and started wearing a purity locket.

"Jesus has changed my life and he makes me realise what's important in life," says Sophie. And once her parents get over their fear that their daughter has joined a cult, they begin to feel relieved that she isn't going down the same road as her promiscuous sister Rosie.

www.christianitymagazine.co.uk

June church diary

3rd

Wednesday 8.00pm Prayer Meeting
- 9.00pm – for Youth Pastor
led by Charles
Martin

4th

Thursday House Groups

6th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at All Saints

7th

Sunday 10.30am Family Service to
include baptism of
three members.
Charles Martin –
followed by Bring
and Share lunch
Charles Martin
6.30pm

10th

Wednesday Lunch Fellowship

11th

Thursday 8.00pm Church Meeting

12th

Friday Lunch Fellowship

13th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at All Saints

14th

Sunday 9.30am Family Service
& Communion
Charles Martin
11.00am Charles Martin
6.30pm HHDEF at Clair Hall

18th

Thursday House Groups

20th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at All Saints

21st

Sunday 9.30am David Jones
11.00am David Jones
6.30pm Charles Martin

23th

Tuesday 7.45pm In Touch

24th

Wednesday 2.45pm Afternoon
Fellowship
7.30pm Elders

27th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at All Saints

28th

Sunday 9.30am Dan McQuillin
11.00am Dan McQuillin &
Communion
6.30pm David Jones

**OTHER LOCAL EVENTS
LISTED ON BACK COVER**

Balcombe United Reformed Church



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

Our services are held weekly at 10.30am.

Visitors are welcome to join us.

Speakers for this month are as follows:-

June 7th	To be arranged
June 14th	Philip Wren
June 21st	Charles Martin
	– COMMUNION SERVICE
June 28th	Philip Wren

FlowerRota

Arranging

Distributing

June

7th	Betty Billins	Barbara Shepherd
14th	Winifred Scopes	Margaret Gomme
21st	Carol Walters	Kay Phillpot
28th	Janet Wade	Jo Bloxham

July

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

Sunday services explained...

The **9.30am service** is an opportunity for all age groups to join in a relaxed informal time. There is a crèche, and after about 20 minutes children and young people up to age 14 go out to their own groups on most Sundays.

Coffee is normally served between the morning services and after the evening one.

The **11.00am service** is usually more set and formal.

At **6.30pm** it is sometimes a celebration, sometimes a quieter ministry time and sometimes an open communion service or something quite different!

Personal prayer is available after every service. Prayer requests and brief statements of praise for answered prayer can be put in the red book on the concourse table. We can also offer personal prayer ministry at home or in hospital.

We **do not take up an offering** during the services, but all those wishing to give are invited to place a gift in one of the bowls at the doors before or after the service. Thank you.

Cassette **recordings of services** can be borrowed free from the church.

Family News

House Move

After a long delay Ray Smith has finally moved to 34a Appledore Gardens, Lindfield, Sussex. RH16 2EU.

Many blessings for the future Ray.

Bereavement

On a sad note we commend to your prayers Janet Wade and John Barling who have both lost close family members recently

25th Wedding Anniversary

There are three silver weddings to celebrate in the next few months - both Ray and Rosemary Tijou and Tim and Janet Sanderson will celebrate theirs this coming September and John and Carol Merrett will have celebrated theirs in early May.

Simon Merrett, who has been working as a graduate volunteer for the National Trust at Scotney Castle, has been offered a one-year cultural programme working for an American lawyer in New York and will be moving to New York in early July. Prayers would be appreciated for settling into this new environment and for help in finding suitable accommodation.

Thanks

Graham, Jacqueline and Julia Wood would like to express sincere thanks for all the cards, messages and prayer support

during their recent bereavement of Kitty Wood. The help and support has been greatly appreciated

Graham Wood

A message from Gladys Muir

I thought you would like to know that I have received a letter from St. Peter and St James Hospice informing me that they have received the sum of £569.20 of my late husband. This they have placed in the Andrew Muir Memorial fund which is kept open as a lasting tribute.

My thanks to all, who helped to raise this amount. It was a charity dear to Andrew's heart. He was instrumental in setting up the Flag Day which we have in Lindfield annually.

Gladys Muir

The Fellowship

We meet this month on Wednesday 24th June, 2.45pm. The speaker is Yvonne Nulty, her subject 'My Journey through Nursing'

Members may remember the interesting talk she gave us last year, and we look forward to welcoming her again.

There will be our usual Bring and Buy Stall, and we extend a very warm welcome to all.

Quiz success!

Quizaid

Church members, family, colleagues, friends, bar staff, bar regulars and complete strangers (new friends) filled the Stand Up Inn to standing room only (the clue is in the name!) on Monday May 11th for the Christian Aid Quizaid night. Together we raised £210 towards equipping and educating some of the worlds poorest communities.

The team behind and proping up the bar combined to take first prize (against the run of form in their regular quiz performances!). It was a close finish.

Your help combined with the national Quizaid campaign aims to deliver £250,000 of aid in the form of food, clean water, education and equipment.

Many thanks to everyone who took part for your generous support of Christian Aid.

Dan McQuillin



Good**NEWS** Online

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

The Shack

by Wm Paul Young

**The April to June Book was 'The Shack' by Wm Paul Young.
We have now a couple of different reactions to this book;**

I found 'The Shack' to be unlike any book I have ever read. It is at times tragic, amusing, very challenging and thought provoking.

The book is a work of fiction and is an account of a man who had been estranged from God for many years after suffering abuse as a child from his father. He was unable to forgive his parent and was so bitter towards God for allowing this to happen to him that he gave up his preparation for the ministry. A terrible family tragedy occurs and he is completely overwhelmed with grief and despair - a time he calls 'The Great Sadness'. His relationship with God worsens and he becomes devoid of emotion.

Four years or so after the tragedy, he is mysteriously invited to the mountainside shack where the horrifying incident occurred and he encounters 'The Trinity', which is depicted in a most unusual form. He is then led on a challenging journey where he eventually discovers God's infinite love for him and all mankind, and he is taught forgiveness and repentance.

I found it hard at first to imagine God as an amply proportioned black mamma, who always seemed to be cooking, Jesus as a young man in tatty jeans, and the Holy Spirit as an ethereal Asian woman, but once I had accepted that, I found many questions answered, and I am comforted by the fact that we all have these queries in our minds from time to time. I feel that it is a book that I shall return to from time to time as there is so much to take in, and it was certainly worth reading.

Carol Marsh

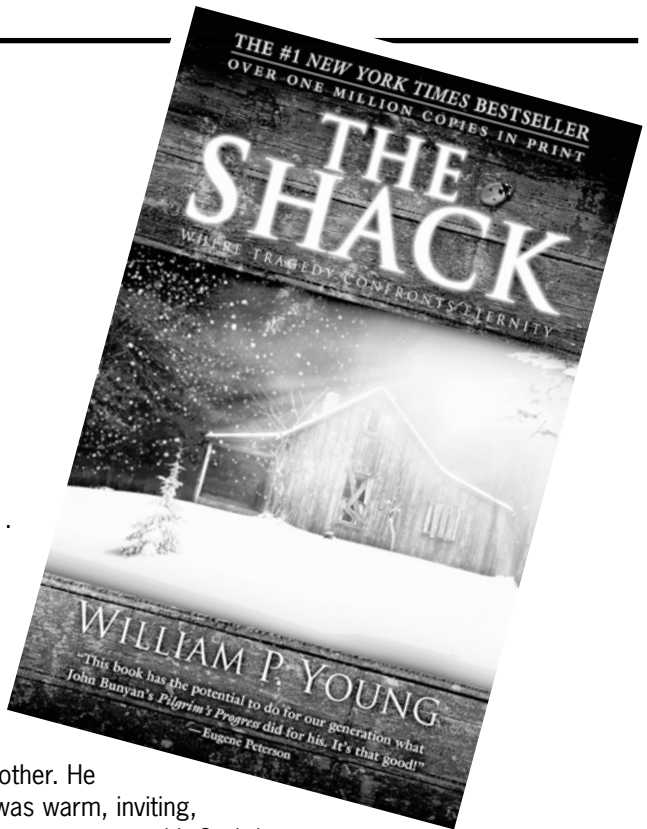
'Mack could not stop the tears from filling his eyes . . . with every effort he could muster, he kept himself from falling back into the black hole of his emotions. Meanwhile, this woman stood there with her arms outstretched as if they were the very arms of his mother. He felt the presence of love. It was warm, inviting, melting.' This was Mack's first encounter with God, in person.

I started to read this book slowly as I was quite sure that I would not like it. When I read the paragraph quoted above I began to feel a quickening of my emotions and I began to read more quickly and then? I galloped through the pages to the end of the book. I know now that I must read it again and read it slowly all the way through.

Reading this book puts you on a roller-coaster of emotions. It moves you to laughter, to tears, to heart wrenching soul searching and finally to a deep longing to come closer to this God of love.

It is a beautiful book.

Jean Gardiner



Jesus is not the only one Who Saves Lives!

Although there are no **References to Smoke Alarms in the Bible (as far as I'm aware!) they do indeed save lives, maybe not in the same way as Jesus admittedly.**

Smoke Alarms help to detect the 60,000 house fires which occur every year in the UK, and the 500 deaths and 11,000 injuries which result from these fires can be reduced if you have a correctly fitted and working Smoke Alarm on each floor of your property.

This is where I, as a Firefighter with West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, can help.

I am taking this opportunity to promote a free service we offer called a Home Fire Safety Check.

This consists of either myself or a colleague visiting you in your home, looking for any fire risks and going through a general fire safety questionnaire which offers potentially life saving advice and how to reduce the risk of a fire starting.

We then advise you on the best course of action should a fire occur when you are asleep in bed.

The last part of the Check involves

making sure your existing Smoke Alarms work and if you don't have any fitted, we will fit new Smoke Alarms which come with a 10 year battery for peace of mind.

This service is completely FREE (including any Smoke Alarms we fit) and is available to everyone irrespective of age.

The visit should last no more than 45 minutes, so if you would like to have a free Home Fire Safety Check by your local friendly Firefighters then please see the small yellow post box attached to the notice board on the "slope" by the lounge. There are small postcards next to it which you can fill out your details (please include a contact phone number) and post in the box.

I will empty the box regularly and we will then contact you by phone to organise a convenient time to visit. I will try to replenish the postcards as required but if there are none left then please contact me directly on 07891 116689.

Thanks
Chris Saunders

First in a series of "You'd Never Believe It"

Tales from a Minister's Murky Past - part two

Being a part-time hospital chaplain brings you into contact with a number of interesting and remarkable people. One whom I remember well, was the then Dean of Rochester – the Very Rev. Edward Shotter.

Because I am only pint-sized, I find tall men somewhat intimidating (and tall women veritably terrifying – but that's another story!) The Dean was very tall. He had the ecumenical responsibility of overseeing Hospital Chaplaincy throughout the Rochester Diocese and one day he arrived at Orpington Hospital to make sure we were behaving ourselves.

I was sitting, minding my own business in the Chaplains' Office, when he swept in. Seeing my clerical collar, he asked "Who are you?" I told him I was the Free Church Chaplain. "Have you ever heard of the L.M.G.?" he asked. I was at a loss. I didn't know what he was talking about. Before I could question him further, he said "Well, I started it!" and turning on his heel, swept out of the office. I was speechless. (Later, I was to discover that the L.M.G. is the London Medical Group, a very prestigious body consisting of Doctors and Clergy.)

However, the result of his visit was very positive. He encouraged and affirmed the chaplaincy team and we were very grateful. Before he left, we treated him to a cuppa and it was then that he told me the following story, which might bring a smile. "I remember reading a notice in my College at Oxford" he said. "It read as follows – 'Will all gentlemen who are in the habit of taking tea in the Quad, please ensure that their kettles are not placed on the grass. Damage is being caused by their hot bottoms!' " I was speechless for the second time that day.

CSM

Cottage Garden Perennials

The mainstay of the traditional cottage garden is the herbaceous border filled with a staggering array of plants of varying heights, shapes and colours providing interest throughout the year. Obviously most of us don't live in a country cottage with a large garden, but even those of us who have only a modest-sized plot can enjoy a good variety of these easy-to-care-for plants.

A hardy herbaceous perennial is defined as a non-woody plant that comes back every year, or retains evergreen foliage over winter and is tolerant of frost. They can be grown in a wide variety of conditions and sites. There are many plants to choose from to create a relatively labour-saving garden, perhaps leaving the bright annuals to be grown in baskets and tubs. Most need little attention other than staking, if tall, deadheading, and cutting down deciduous varieties in October.

Evergreen Plants

What about these evergreen herbaceous plants? Many people

assume that all herbaceous plants die down in the autumn, but you can still have an attractive border throughout the winter if you choose.

- *Bergenia* (Elephant's Ears): large shiny round leaves with pink flowers.
- *Campanula Persicifolia*: bell-type flower in blue or white.
- *Dianthus* (Carnation/Pink): silver leaves and fragrant flowers, but add some lime before planting.
- *Geranium* (Cranes Bill): mounds of deeply divided leaves and saucer-shaped flowers.
- *Heuchera*: oval or heart-shaped leaves of various colours.
- *Penstemon* : go for *P. Barbatus* or *P. Fruticosa*.
- *Sisyrinchium*: erect fans of sword-like leaves like the *Iris*.
- *Stachys* (Lambs Ears) : woolly silver leaves and flowers.

The list is not exhaustive and the odd low-growing shrub like

Cistus (Sunrose) or Hebe could be added for variety.

Plants for Clay Soils

Don't despair - clay is not all that bad even though we have brickworks in our area! Many herbaceous perennials thrive in sticky and wet, then hard and dry clay soils. A few include:

- Anemone Japonica (Japanese Anemone): late flowering, tall with long-lasting white or pink flowers.
- Aster Novi-Belgii (Michaelmas Daisy): wide range of colours - modern strains are more resistant to powdery mildew.
- Crocosima (Montbretia): arching stems of bright orange or red flowers.
- Digitalis (Fox Glove): tall spiked flower for shady spots.
- Helenium Autumnalis: Late-flowering brown or golden daisies.
- Hemerocalis (Day Lily) : lily-like trumpets in bright colours.
- Monarda (Bergamot): aromatic leaves and strange pink or red flowers.
- Rudbekia (Coneflower) : late-flowering yellow daisies.

Many herbaceous plants have fragrant flowers or leaves when pinched and some are

particularly good at attracting bees and butterflies - these include Asters, Dianthus, Lavender and Sedum Spectabile (Ice Plant).

If your herbaceous border is backed by a fence or wall, the Cottage Garden backdrop effect can be increased by planting perennial climbers such as Clematis or Lonicera (Honeysuckle), many of the latter being very fragrant. You may also want to add some annual climbers such as Ipomea (blue Morning Glory), Lathyrus (Sweet Pea) or Nasturtiums for extra colour.

At the very front of the border you could make room for patches of annual flowers (not too late to sow) such as Candytuft, Clarkia, Godetia or Night-scented Stock mixed with Virginia Stock to give very low-growing colour and the latter having a strong fragrance.

As I wrote earlier, if you live in a cottage or modern house, you can have a colourful border of trouble-free hardy herbaceous perennials in your garden and, hopefully, some of the ideas I have given you will be helpful.

Next Month : Sunshine Plants
for Lazy Days
Stuart Marsh

Spring Harvest, Minehead 2009

From 14th – 19th April a group of 49 went to Spring Harvest in Minehead. The theme of the week was 'Apprentice – Walking the way of Christ'. Jesus' constant challenge to people from all walks of life was 'follow me', and his first followers were apprentices. Theirs was a whole life active experience. Their learning was varied and diverse, deep and profound. There was formal instruction, but Jesus' disciples learned primarily through observation, imitation, practice, misunderstanding, mistakes, failures, setbacks, debate, success, formation of habits and skills, reflection on why things happened the way they did and what could be done differently next time, and yet more practice. Not only did they learn from Jesus but also from one another. Although this kind of active learning is challenging, when it is neglected the learning of individual Christians and whole churches is inevitably damaged. We learnt that each of Jesus' original apprentices was unique, and each had a different way of learning. By understanding this, we could understand each other better.

Thoughts about the week from some of the group:

When we found out that we were allocated room 101 we had some concerns that we might never see Lindfield again! However the week progressed and nothing untoward occurred. The teaching from Ian Coffey was fantastic and the times of worship in the Big Top were very special – Vicky Beeching was a very genuine worship leader (Rich described her as the Christian Suzi Quatro!!) We were very glad that we were there.

Richard & Dawn Walters

It's been four and a half days of discovery about ourselves and the Christian faith. The teaching has been excellent and we would recommend it to anyone. Any visit to Butlins is an experience never to be forgotten and if it's shared with Christian brothers and sisters

it feels less like being in a very pleasant detention centre! Seriously we wouldn't have missed it for the world and look forward to coming again next year.

Charles & Jenny Martin

After a scenic journey, we arrived and made our way to our chalet. We have a shower – woohoo!! We shared a week of chaotic camaraderie – eating, talking, learning and having fun together. We could probably have won the 'hungriest chalet award' and the 'most wiped key cards award'! For me, this has been an opportunity to refresh and renew my faith and to watch Gina grow spiritually upward (not in height – thank heavens!) with pleasure. To spend time and bond with a fellow family of the fellowship. Thank you for a week of refreshment and renewal. God bless Jane, Alex, Johanna and Kieron for putting up with us and for Zoe for her organisation.

Barbara & Gina Balicki

Sharing a chalet with someone outside the family was a new experience for me. I thought it might ruin a good friendship – I needn't have worried. It has been absolutely great living, learning and sharing with Barbara & Gina. It has been something new sharing the events at end of the day with another adult. In the mornings we went to the Big Top for the bible reading and then the Green Zone for one of the other programmes called 'Reflectors' where we reflected on how we should walk in the footsteps of Jesus. We spent our leisure time looking at the books and on the rides in the fairground. In the evening we went to the Big Top, followed by afterhours activities of swimming, watching Ishmael, and the girls went to see TBC, a Christian girl pop group. We had a lot of laughs and discovered a lot more in common than we thought and the children have enjoyed being together, living in each other's pockets, learning and having fun together. Thank you Barbara and Gina for putting up with us and all our faults and we're going home renewed and refreshed in our faiths after a fantastic time together. Also, thank you to Zoe for all her hard work organising and making sure we've all settled in.

Jane, Alex, Johanna & Kieron Harfield.



Spring Harvest 2010 – We are thinking about it already!!



It seems like we have only just returned but we are looking ahead already to Spring Harvest 2010. (Bookings have to be made by the 10th June!!)

Ethics aren't just choices. They're moral decisions about life. Sometimes everyday life. Sometimes extraordinary circumstances.

Ethics provoke the most passionate discussions, whether in parliament, church, our families and school, the office or down the pub. Different groups of people respond differently to the same situations because they have different beliefs. Different senses of right and wrong.

The hope of the world is not liberty or justice or equality or democracy—it's Jesus and community committed ethics. The goal of a Christ-centred life and community is not to feel good, but to know good and to do good.

We're distinctive because we're Christ's people and we live in God's story. We'll be discussing real issues. Things like: Crime & Rehabilitation, Ethical consumerism, Banks, economics and bonuses, War and peace making, Euthanasia and assisted dying.

Come and have your perspective—and your life—shaped by applying Biblical truth to issues you face at this uncertain time.



We would like to see many people of all ages coming next year, and joining together as a church fellowship. The dates will be sometime between Thursday 8th April and Sunday 18th April for five nights, dependant on availability at booking. Accommodation is self catering, but half-board is an option.

If you would like to come and require further information please contact **Zoe McQuillin on 01444 484364 or email her on zoe@mcquillin.com**. You can then confirm your attendance by signing up on the form in the concourse or contacting Zoe direct, **by Sunday 7th June**.



'Lindfield URC + Friends' Team Entry

On Sunday 21st June around 27,000 cyclists of all shapes and sizes, youngsters and veterans and those somewhere in between, will be riding down the High Street en route to Madeira Drive for the 2009 London to Brighton Bike Ride to raise money for the British Heart Foundation. This year's target is £4.2 million to be raised from donations pledged to each rider from anyone willing and able to support the charity's valuable work of education, patient support and research.

Amongst their number once again will be a (this year a ten strong) team of 'Lindfield URC+Friends', adorned in red logoed shirts designed by Kipper Creative especially for the occasion. This year Charlie Tingley and John Barling are joined by Jonathan and Alex Hall from the church, together with friends, Angus Bloxham, Dom Archer, Janina Jakubowska, Jon and Paula Clark and Nick Goodwin. The team will be leaving Clapham Common around 7am (ish) and hope to be stopping in Lindfield for refreshments somewhere around 10:45 – 11:00, legs permitting, before tackling the 'big one', Ditchling Beacon.

Please encourage the riders with a wave and a cheer as they come through. All donations to BHF gratefully received!

John Barling

Church Anniversary Weekend

Nearly two hundred years ago, in October 1810, the first meeting of a group of 'Dissenters' took place in Lindfield somewhere on Black Hill. These were people who wanted to break away from the Anglican tradition and form their own church, and so the first steps towards establishing what is now Lindfield United Reformed Church were taken. Forty-eight years later, on May 4th 1858, our church was opened.

We feel, as a church that we couldn't let two such important anniversaries slip by unmarked, so, on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th October, we are holding a Celebration Weekend.

The weekend will include an exhibition showing the life and work of Lindfield over the years, an entertainment entitled 'Through the Window' which will give a glimpse of the life and times of the last two hundred years plus our thoughts and hopes for the future, and last, but by no means least, a Thanksgiving Service on the Sunday morning which will be conducted by our Moderator, the Reverend Nigel Uden.

Now, this is where YOU come in! For the exhibition, we are going to need a lot of material, so if you have any photos, artefacts or memorabilia - past or present - or anything you think may be of interest, please could you let Brian & Sue Tester know. Most importantly, if you are in touch with any past members and friends, we would welcome any material that they may have. If you don't already send them a copy of Good News, perhaps you could send them a copy of this current edition. We would be delighted to hear from them and, of course, they would be very welcome to attend the weekend.

There will be further details of the weekend as time goes on, so do make a note of the dates, and get your old photo albums out - we really need your help!

Carol Marsh



South Downs Walk for British Heart Foundation

Helen and Carol Merrett will once again be taking up the challenge of walking 15 miles along the South Downs Way in aid of the British Heart Foundation on the 28th June.

We would be grateful for any sponsorship and if you would wish to contribute we have placed a form on the Church noticeboard. Many thanks."



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

HEART OF SUSSEX WALK

Sunday 28th June 2009

Varying distances - 5, 8, 15 or 21 miles along the South Downs between Clayton Windmills and Alfriston.

Transport back to the start.

There is a BBQ at Southease and additional refreshments to buy at Alfriston.

For further details please call Simon Cartwright on 01444 482751, or the East Region office on 01892 893918 or email eastcfr@bhf.org.uk



BEATING HEART DISEASE TOGETHER



 *walking*
Sponsored walks

Local events



CONCERT FOR UGANDA

Saturday 20th June, 7.30pm

St Mary's Parish Church, Balcombe

The Harant Singers

Sacred/secular/old/new...plus some African!

in support of:

Pastor Patrick Ggenza, Wanyange

Kagando hospital

Catholic parish of Irundu

12th Ardingly Gardens Open Day

Saturday 11th July, 11am to 5pm

At least 10 gardens to visit. Car Park at Church Centre. Refreshments on sale in Church Centre 11am to 4.30pm. Plants for sale at 40 Gowers Close. Musicians playing in St Peter's Church. Bring (or buy) a picnic lunch to eat in any of the gardens.

Entry Fee £4 per Adult, pays for all gardens.

Accompanied Children free. Proceeds for St Peter's Church Centre refurbishment.

Organisers: Angela Box 01444 892318 and Barbara Lucas 01444 892583

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.