

*Good*NEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

MARCH 2009

Getting to Know Jesus

PLUS...

- Mission support this month is for Mercy Ships
- Information about Concerts
- Book Club book Review!



WE ARE THE
SOUL Agents
IN THIS AREA!

Adam blamed Eve
Eve blamed the snake
and the snake didn't
have a leg to stand on

God,
You're
Great!

IF YOUR PROBLEM
IS LONG STANDING,
TRY KNEELING.

GAMBLING IS A SIN
**BET YOU CAN'T
GIVE IT UP!**

**SPEAK WELL OF
YOUR ENEMIES.
AFTER ALL,
YOU MADE THEM**

Down in the MOUTH?
Come in for a
Lambic Ale.

Can't Sleep?
Don't Count Sheep
Talk to
the Shepherd!

GOD IS PERFECT...
ONLY MAN
MAKES MISTEAKS

**NOW
OPEN
SUNDAYS!**

**LET US
HELP YOU STUDY
FOR YOUR
FINAL EXAMS**

**HEAVY 2000 YEARS OLD
AND SOUL WINDER
BE AHEAD'S GUARANTEE**

**THERE ARE SOME
QUESTIONS THAT
CAN'T BE
ANSWERED BY
Google**

If you pass this little church,
be sure to play a visit,
no "visit" at least
you've earned it.
God won't ask "Who is it?"

HAPPY EASTER to our Christian friends
HAPPY PASSOVER to our Jewish friends
To our atheist friends...
Good Luck

**ALL SERVICES ARE
DIFFERENT. WE LEAVE
THE REPEATS TO TV**

**NONE OF OUR
HYMNS
ARE TESTED
ON LIVE ANIMALS**



Concert

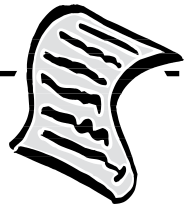
Requiem Maurice Duruflé

Wednesday 8th April 2009, 7.30pm
Ludfield United Reformed Church

Entrance free of charge.
Besting collection in aid of charity

For more
information on the
Requiem please see
page 9

Dear Friends...



“Sorry” is not an easy word. To mean it (as well as merely saying it) requires honesty and a certain amount of courage, because it will sometimes be met with “*Sorry is not enough!*” Whether you are the Chief Executive of a Bank appearing before a Select Committee of the House of Commons, or an errant husband apologising to his wife for forgetting their wedding anniversary, a simple “Sorry” may not get you off the hook.

Some years ago, I was taking part in a three Faiths Symposium at a local Synagogue. Along with a Rabbi and an Imam, I was there to explain my perspective on forgiveness. The Rabbi said something very significant. I shared it with you during a sermon on forgiveness, but I think it bears repetition, because it shows a remarkable level of positive thinking.

He said that when a member of his congregation offends a fellow-member, he or she must apologise, but the person who has been offended does not have to accept the apology. The offended person can, if they wish, send the miscreant away with a dusty answer and refuse to be reconciled. The apology must then be made a second time and for a second time the offended person can refuse to forgive. However, the third time the apology is made, it must be accepted. If it is not, the person who has been offended now becomes the one who has to apologise!

We all find it difficult to say “Sorry” and some of us find it equally difficult to accept an apology. Locking someone up in disapproval makes us feel better, or so it would seem. Part of the process of forgiveness and reconciliation, is the acknowledgement that someone has been hurt and the arrangement the Rabbi explained guarantees that; but our Jewish friends have the common-sense not to leave it there. In the end (and sooner rather than later) apologies have to be accepted, otherwise family life, work relationships and even national unity become impossible. The tragedy of broken relationships and family feuds which have never been laid to rest, is heart-breaking.

Is there someone whose apology you have refused to accept? Is there someone to whom you ought to apologise? The season of Lent is almost upon us and at the end of Lent, we come to Holy Week. I shall be saying more about the events of Good Friday and Easter in next month’s magazine, but it seems to me that Lent is a good time to do some serious thinking.

The only person Who never had to apologise is Jesus. His life was one of total self-giving and in dying on the cross, He took on Himself the guilt of the whole human race, including yours and mine. In light of that, the way we feel hurt pales into insignificance, but our obligation to say “Sorry” is magnified a thousand fold. The only thing that is better than knowing you are forgiven, is the joy of forgiving someone. Try it for yourself!

With every good wish, your Pastor and friend,

Charles S. Martin

GoodNEWS

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Editorial



**This month we have 2
exceptional articles which
encourage and challenge us
in our Christian faith.**

Elizabeth Martin's article gives us the challenge to want to get to know Jesus better. She however doesn't just challenge to do this but gives practical steps to help us make the challenge a reality in our lives. Heather Henderson's article, which is the last in the series on Daily living, asks us 2 questions; do I really Love my neighbour sitting next to me in the pew? And, are the consequences of my love for my neighbour evident in what I do practically?

We have the first of our Book Club reviews, so an especial thanks to those who contributed. These reviews I hope will encourage others to read Philip Yancey's book. Find out what the next book is in the Book Club.

Its coming up for Easter so there is a plethora of Concerts coming your way – so have a read about them.

Val

Prayer **FOCUS**



Monday - We have such freedom in our country. Let's remember those who don't. Particularly pray for the people of Zimbabwe. Pray for an end to their sufferings, a benevolent regime and that the cholera epidemic may be brought under control.

Tuesday - We also have freedom to worship. Let's remember those who don't. I was particularly moved by an item on the radio about a Christian father and daughter in Egypt who had converted from Islam. They are now receiving threats that they will be killed if they don't give up their Christian faith and revert back to Islam. We can pray for them and others in a similar situation.

Wednesday - We can pray for the Church in China. There would appear to be a move by the Authorities to allow greater religious freedom. Pray that this may continue and that they will not have their hopes dashed.

Thursday - Pray for those badly affected by the financial downturn in this country, Those facing redundancy and possible severe financial hardship. Pray that the Lord will uphold them and give us the means to support those we know in any way that we can.

Friday - Pray for our political leaders, Pray that they may be guided to find the right solution to the problems facing our country. May they seek the Lord's guidance and not try to find short term fixes and consider the needs of the people rather than their own political ends.

Saturday - As a lot of us start to relax at the weekend. Let's pray for those who work at weekends keeping us safe and attending to our needs.

Sunday - A good friend of ours died recently. It can be hard to understand why, but we know that we have to trust that the Lord is right and that His ways are not our ways and his thoughts are not our thoughts. I would like to pray for those known to us who have recently been bereaved and ask the Lord to put his arms round them and give them his peace.

Getting to know Jesus

I am always happy to meet another servant of God who has lived by faith much longer than I have. I met Esther Russell a few months ago. After sharing story after story of God's faithfulness in her life, she turned to me and said with a beautiful smile on her face, "I have learned that of all the things that I have thought were important in life, all the ministries and good things I could do, the most important is getting to know Jesus." I was struck. Here was a woman in her 80s, who had lived as a missionary for many years. A mother, a pastor's wife, then her husband's caretaker when he had Alzheimer's; yet she still said that getting to know Jesus was of primary importance to her, and that it continues to bring her the greatest joy and happiness.

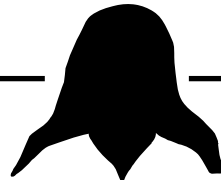
But what does getting to know Jesus really mean? And what does it entail? And what could I do differently this year than in the previous years?

The process of getting

to know Jesus begins with conversion, but doesn't stop there! The first thing that came to mind when I was dwelling on that phrase was a simple song from a musical, "The King and I". The first lines are, "Getting to know you, getting to know all about you. Getting to like you, getting to hope you like me.." And there the analogy stops. For you see we can be confident in God's love for us. We know that He loves us or He would never have died for us. We know that He wants relationship with us, or He would never have created an eternity to be lived with Him.

I thought back on the best friendships I have had, what has made them wonderful, and what has hurt them. I realized that it was the time spent with these people that made all the difference. Above all, I loved them, and it was clear to me that they loved me too!

Jesus makes it clear to us that He loves us. "How great is the love the Father has lavished upon us, that we should be called



children of God.” (1 John 3:1) He wants to be with us. We are made in His image. He gave His life so that we might have eternal fellowship with Him! What better friendship could we ever imagine than that? When we start with His love for us, and not a love we have to fabricate ourselves, this makes all the difference. We get to respond to that love! Esther Russell, said “When we returned from Ethiopia on our first furlough after being missionaries for five years I was desperate “to find God”! I remember praying earnestly, “Father God do anything needful to bring me into an intimate relationship with You!” I thought I would be given the gift of tongues or something MIGHTY. I found instead a quiet and very tender beckoning to come to Him. He has imprinted upon my spirit since then a beautiful picture of His outstretched arms and a look of a longing father in His eyes as He clearly whispers, “Come, Esther, come ! I’ve been waiting for you.”

The best scriptural analogy to this is Christ’s relationship to the church, His bride. (Rev. 19:7, 21:2) I will never forget when I first heard that the Bible was to be our love letter from the Lord. To think that we can read over

and over again, forever finding out new things about Him from it. I am reminded of when I was engaged to my husband, Mat. He was working on his thesis, and I was just next door, feverishly writing essays and practicing for my music degree in University. Although we saw each other weekly, and we could e-mail as often as we liked, I asked Mat to write me letters. I knew that if I had something in his own handwriting, and I could hold it in my hands, rather than read it off a screen, I would treasure it far more, and my response would be much more genuine and well thought through. He agreed to write real letters. This transformed our relationship. I read and re-read those letters. I responded to his questions, and thoughts in a way I could never do from the computer. As the romance developed, the letters got even more important because we were separated by long distance through that following summer. As much as I enjoyed hearing his voice on the phone, it was his letters that enabled me to get to know him. We need to read God’s Word as a love letter that is written to us for our enrichment and encouragement. 2 Timothy

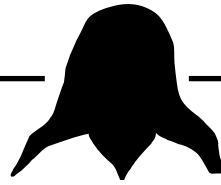
Feature Article – Getting to know Jesus ---

3:16-17 says, “All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” He gives us the ability to be trained in righteousness, through His word. When we read His Word we are spending time with him because the words are God-breathed!

As we get to know His character, we find out that He wants us to commune with Him in prayer. We can be confident as we approach His throne. Hebrews 4:16 “Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

We get to know Him by spending time in prayer also. But it needs to be rightly-directed. A lot of my Christian experience in prayer and spending time with the Lord has been in asking Him for things. I have cried out for healing, for help in times of great testing and stress. I have asked Him to help others, change others, save others. But my life was changed when another mentor helped me to learn to spend time with the

Lord in a new way. Donna saw that I struggled to stay focused when I prayed, and suggested the use of a prayer journal. I thought at first it was just to list my requests, but I learned that it was for a much broader purpose. In keeping this journal, you must begin with praising the Lord for who He is, for His character. Following that with thanksgiving. Giving thanks for not only physical realities, but the spiritual ones that are eternal. Next, because of the grateful spirit that follows this exercise, you are drawn to confess and repent of your sin. From there, you go on to Intercession. Asking for things comes last. Not because it's least important, but because the way we ask will be different if we have first had the correct perspective from the other part of the exercise. I will never forget phoning up a friend one day who happened to be someone I often called when I needed help, and the first thing she said when she answered was, “what do you need?” She knew who it was because of the caller identification on her mobile. But I was horrified to realize that my dear friend thought that the only reason I was calling was



because I needed something from her, or I needed her to do something for me. Lest you think our friendship ended there, I am thankful to write that I was calling her to say that I did not need anything. I was calling to say that I was thankful for her, and that I wondered how she was doing. Her whole attitude changed. I saw that I could pray for her and encourage her, but most of all, I knew we needed to spend some time together. Are we excited to spend time with the Lord? Are we expectant when we pray to Him? Are we bold in our prayers? The encouragement to me is that even when we do not know what to pray, He is praying for us! "Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. (Heb. 7:25)

When I met Esther Russell, her statement summarizing her journey of faith challenged me. But it was not just what she said, but how she said it. In her smile and manner I could see that knowing Jesus made her happier than anything else in the world.

I asked myself, do I really believe as Esther does, that "For me to live is Christ and

to die is gain?". He says He is with us now. He dwells within His word. He has left His spirit to be with us constantly. Why has it been hard to believe that living is Christ? I truly believe it is because I have not invested my whole heart in getting to know Him. It is to be a joy to know Jesus, not a duty. Have you ever looked at it as a duty? Maybe it is because the majority of the ways we talk about being a Christian involve doing things, or not doing things. But rules and lists are not going to help us get to know Jesus. That was what the Pharisees could not get. They were so confident in their laws that they missed knowing the Lord who came to fulfil ALL the law. They were so stuck on what to do, that they were not able to take His yoke upon themselves and learn from Him. Jesus says, "Come unto me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28) I am looking forward to this year being the first year where I learn how to have joy in the relationship I have with Jesus. I plan on truly investing my heart, soul, mind and strength, in getting to know Him.

Elizabeth Martin

What You See Is Not What You Get!

On January 24th around 50 men sat down to a sumptuous breakfast at the church, which was followed by a talk by Lance de Vries from Christian Vision for Men with the above title. Lance's talk highlighted the dangers of Internet Pornography, which research and statistics clearly demonstrate is a massive problem even among Christians and in particular Christian men. One recent Christian publication described it as the 'Unspoken Problem in the Church'

Pornography has been around for generations but with the ever-increasing number of websites – it is estimated that over one third are pornographic – the dangers are also increasing as is the descent into what is far more hard core. Couple this with the easy and secretive access there is clearly a need for us to be challenged about our habits and the need for living holy lives. In many ways we all need to examine our standards as so often what would have rightly shocked us a few years ago no longer does. What we see can so often lose its shock value and no longer be termed 'bad'

Addiction to pornography – and it is an addiction – can ruin lives in just the same way and even in a more serious way than alcohol, smoking and drug abuse. As with all addictions the beginning can appear to be quite innocent with no thought of the long term consequences. Not all who are involved or addicted to pornography become sex offenders but we were told that almost without exception those who are convicted of such crimes have had some involvement with pornography.

Even if involvement doesn't lead on to crime it can and will affect our faith and relationship with God, and also our relationships with those to whom we are the closest. If we are married it can also adversely affect the self worth and value of our husband or wife. Lance shared openly about his problems in this area and that it nearly cost him his marriage

BUT THERE IS HOPE and Lance mentioned one or two ways to begin to tackle a problem or even just to keep us on track and avoid one. Firstly you need to go to God and talk to Him. Often with our secrets we do not approach God because of the shame and feeling of guilt or just because we messed up again. But confess we must and seek His healing for heart and mind.

Then it's important to set up an accountability structure. This involves having someone you can confide in, someone who will pray for you and with you regularly and check how you are doing.

On a practical level there is a variety of software available to block access to certain sites (eg: www.integrity.com/filtering.html). Also there is software that can be loaded that will give your accountability partner a regular report giving details of websites visited (eg. www.covenanteyes.com).

As Christians we need to appreciate that we are not on our own we do have the Holy Spirit to help us with our struggles.

And remember 'It was for freedom that Christ has set us free. So stand firm, then and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. (Galatians 5 v 1)

Concert - Duruflé Requiem

**Wednesday 8th April, 7.30pm. Lindfield
United Reformed Church**

The Ashdown Singers, directed by Terence Steele, and with Mezzo Soprano and Baritone Soloists.

Organist: Susan Bain

The Ashdown Singers are no strangers to Lindfield URC, and over the past few years audiences have been delighted by their seasonal Holy Week performances, lighter Summer Music programmes, and of course Christmas Carol Singing during the Lindfield Christmas Village Night. Lindfield URC is looking forward to welcoming the Ashdown Singers once more during Holy Week for their performance of Duruflé's Requiem.

Typically French in style and not dissimilar to Fauré's well known setting, Duruflé draws on his knowledge of Gregorian chant to form the melodic basis around which he weaves complex and intriguing harmonies. The choir and organ are both treated as solo instruments in their own right giving each part an independence of expression and melody whilst melding together in an ethereal manner befitting of a peaceful Requiem setting. Duruflé wrote the Requiem in 1947 and it was published in that year in memory of his Father, however he was such a perfectionist that he constantly "fiddled" with it. His desire for perfection is undoubtedly reflected in his output and subsequently, his fame. Duruflé was not such a prolific composer and his better known contemporaries "Les Six" (who included Poulenc and Milaud) dominated French composition during that era. Out of his total of fourteen published works, Requiem is by far the best known, and deservedly so because of its sheer beauty.

Over the years, three versions were published each with different orchestration, although no doubt more existed in manuscript! The version the Ashdown Singers will perform is the version he wrote for choir, soloists and organ.

So why not make an evening of it and come along to be uplifted by the beautiful music, and give yourself a peaceful hour to reflect upon your holy week? You'll also be helping to raise much needed funds for St. Peter & St. James Hospice as whilst there is no charge for the concert, a retiring collection will be taken for its benefit. There will also be a nice opportunity to socialise after the concert and mingle with the performers over refreshments.

"So why not make an evening of it and come along to be uplifted by the beautiful music and give yourself a peaceful hour to reflect upon your Holy Week? You'll also be helping to raise much needed funds for the Hospice as whilst there is no charge for the concert there will be a retiring collection to be shared between the choir and them. There will also be a nice opportunity to socialise after the concert and mingle with the performers over refreshments afterwards."



What's so Amazing about Grace?

This is a 'must read' for every Christian. Written in Yancey's very own readable style with many stories to illustrate points, we are reminded of what grace really is – a gift that costs everything for the giver and nothing for the recipient. It always comes free of charge with no strings attached and 'on the house'. Those of us who are Christians should be able to understand the 'Amazing Grace' that is ours through the life, death and resurrection and on-going presence of Jesus in our lives – but do we? Are we still trying to work or perform in order to merit this grace? Grace is the one tenet of the Christian faith that sets it apart from all other religions. The notion of God's love coming to us free of charge seems to go against every instinct of humanity. Some would say that grace is unfair but it's not about fairness but love. It is truly amazing!

Sadly, we are also reminded that despite the world starving for grace it is not always found in the church. C S Lewis is quoted as saying, "To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in us.

As Christians we have a choice; we can be governed by the two great forces that rule the universe: gravity or grace. Gravity pulls everything into itself seeking to swell in significance whereas a grace-full Christian will continue to give, to love, to forgive even when it is not deserved.

So it's not just the 'Amazing Grace' that we have received but the 'amazing impact that we can have when we live grace-filled lives.

Buy it or borrow it but definitely read it!

Ron Goodenough

What's so Amazing about Grace?

The roots of GRACE or CHARIS is Greek, come from a verb that means; 'I rejoice, I am glad' Philip Yancey.

Philip Yancey's writing style makes for 'easy' reading – it is not tied up with difficult to understand theological terminology. Nevertheless the content is made up of the most thought-provoking material and, at times, is hard to put down. The author continually makes one want to know where his thoughts are taking the reader next.

We are asked if we are not only able to forgive but to do so with grace – a gift from God. To quote from the book:

'Not to forgive imprisons one in the past and locks out all potential for changes. When we genuinely forgive we set a prisoner free – and then discover that the prisoner

we set free was us.’

Both Grace and ungrace are dealt with. Philip points out that ungrace is very prevalent in all forms of society and follows the natural law of retribution and ‘fairness’ – ‘an eye for an eye.....’. Breaking the cycle of ungrace means taking the initiative.

When looking at individual people we are told that grace sees beyond the outward appearance, or the ethics, of a person to the person they once were – as Christians was should ‘hate the sin but love the sinner’.

There is so much to absorb that I think that a second reading of this book would be of great benefit – but at least do read it once!

GRACE – The unlimited favour of God – a divine saving and strengthening influence (the concise Oxford Dictionary).

Brief Review of “What’s so Amazing About Grace?”

What’s so amazing about Philip Yancey’s book is that he takes one of the commonest words in the religious vocabulary, and jolts us into realising that we Christians don’t really know what it means. Using examples of both grace and “ungrace” from the Bible, from Christian and secular writers, from films and novels and from his own legalistic Christian background, Yancey pushes out the boundaries of our conventional thinking. It’s a warm book, with some delightful true stories – my favourite is of the jilted bride who went ahead with the slap-up hotel reception (changing the main dish to boneless chicken in honour of the groom!), scrapped the guest list and instead invited all the down-and-outs of the city to a feast of fine food and champagne. But Yancey also challenges us and disturbs us, especially when he probes at the question of forgiveness for war criminals and when he writes very honestly of his reaction to a close Christian friend “coming out” as a homosexual.

Yancey has written several excellent books, but none better than this one. I’ve read it several times, and it’s helped me understand more of the sheer extravagance of God’s grace to me. If you’re like the person who said to me the other day “Philip who?” – go out and get this book and be prepared to have your horizons broadened.

Mike Gardiner

BOOK CLUB – Thank you to those who took the time to contribute to this quarter’s book review. The **next book** for the April to June quarter is **The Shack by Willam. P. Young**. I am sure there are lots of copies of this book around so please do peg and borrow and have a read and then write in a few sentences what you think about it.

March church diary

1st

Sunday

9.30am Worship with
Communion – Dave
Garrard UK Director
African Missions
11.00am Dave Garrard.
6.30pm Stuart Dew

5th

Thursday

10.15am coffee for
10.45am Christianity Explored
7.30pm coffee for
8.00pm Christianity Explored

6th

Friday

1.30pm Women's World
Day of Prayer

7th

Saturday

8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at All Saints

8th

Sunday

9.30am Robert Bushby
Burgess Hill and
Haywards Heath URC
11.00am Robert Bushby
6.30pm Charles Martin -
Communion

11th

Wednesday 12.30

Lunch Fellowship

12th

Thursday

10.15am coffee for
10.45am Christianity Explored
7.30pm coffee for
8.00pm Christianity Explored

13th

Friday

12.30 Lunch Fellowship

14th

Saturday

8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at All Saints

15th

Sunday

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

16th

Monday

8.00pm Church Meeting

19th

Thursday

10.15am coffee for
10.45am Christianity Explored
7.30pm coffee for
8.00pm Christianity Explored

21st

Saturday

8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at All Saints

22nd

Sunday

9.30am Mothering Sunday
– Dan McQuillin
11.00am Communion
– Dan McQuillin
6.30pm HHDEF at Clair Hall

24th

Tuesday

7.45pm In Touch Group to
the Hawth

25th

Wednesday 2.45pm

Afternoon Fellowship

26th

Thursday

10.15am coffee for
10.45am Christianity Explored
7.30pm coffee for
8.00pm Christianity Explored

28th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at All Saints

29th

Sunday 9.30am Charles Martin
11.00am Charles Martin
6.30pm Mike Gardiner

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:-

March	1st	No Service
March	8th	Philip Wren
March	15th	Charles Martin
March	22nd	Philip Wren
March	29th	Mike Gardener

Flower Rota



Arranging

Distributing

March

1st	Vera Dorton	Kay Philpot
8th	Betty Billins	Jo Bloxham
15th	Carol Marsh	Iris Bingham
22nd	Audrey Mckee	Heather Swann
29th	Zoe McQuillin	Sue Tester

April

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

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.

March Mission Giving

This month we will be devoting our giving to the work of

Mercy Ships

Mission

Mercy Ships, a global charity, operates a fleet of hospital ships in developing nations. Following the example of Jesus, Mercy Ships brings hope and healing to the poor, mobilising people and resources worldwide seeking to become the face of love in action.



History

On July 7th 1978 the first Mercy Ship, a retired ocean liner called Victoria, was purchased for £600,000. Ongoing efforts over four years resulted in the transformation of the passenger vessel into a hospital ship. With the addition of 3 operating theatres and a 40-bed ward, the vessel became an 11,701 tonne floating hospital, carrying a volunteer crew of 350 from all over the world. In 1982, the vessel sailed as the newly christened

Anastasis – the first Mercy

Ship.

Since then, various ships in the Mercy Ships fleet have served in more than 150 ports in developing nations around the world, bringing lasting change to hundreds of thousands of lives.

Surgery and Healthcare

Mercy Ships programmes promote health and well-being by serving the urgent surgical needs of the forgotten poor and empowering developing communities. Their work includes eye operations, dental work and operating on those with deformities. Mercy Ships offers emergency care for the



poor in developing nations who have sustained injuries. In most cases areas are inaccessible, resulting in countless people who live with ongoing suffering. Often injuries are compounded from lack of adequate treatment and



require specialised procedures to provide relief. They would include childbirth injuries, war injuries, work injuries etc

Community Empowerment

Programmes are also in place to promote health and well-being including community health education, provision of clean water & sanitation, agriculture training, construction programmes particularly where communities have been devastated by earthquakes and other disasters and also skills training,

There is more information on the mission display area so please take and read the literature. There is also an excellent website – **www.mercyships.org.uk** - which is well worth a visit.

If you would like to give please use the special envelopes and place your donation in the offertory at any Sunday service. Please complete a Gift Aid Slip if you are a taxpayer.

Thank you

News

Response to recent signs on the buses

In reply to adverts on buses sponsored by the British Humanist Society during December 2008, the Christian Party and the Trinitarian Bible Society have paid for their own adverts.

The Atheist slogan was, "There's probably no God. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life.". The Christian Party reply was, "There definitely is a God. So join the Christian Party and enjoy your life.".

The Trinitarian Bible Society message was a quote from Psalm 53 verse 1, "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God.".

Heather Henderson is the Schools Officer - RE, Spiritual Development and Christian Distinctiveness of Church Schools for the Dioceses of Guildford. She is married to Julian Henderson, Arch Deacon Guildford Dioceses. They have 2 grown up children.

Daily Support — being there

I wonder if like me you read the words of the title of this article and think — I might just give this a miss because it looks as if it is going to be yet another list of things to do that will have to be added to an already toppling pile. But please do read on a little further as I would like to suggest that when we think of giving daily support to each other in church we should not just think of lists of things that support might look like e.g. welcoming people to our homes, telephone calls, notes etc. etc., but rather at what underpins it.

I would like to suggest that as always Jesus provides the best pattern to follow. Even a cursory look at His life soon reveals the foundation of the daily support that Jesus gave to people and that of course was 'love' summed up in those deceptively simple words 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your

mind and with all your strength' and 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. Wouldn't family life, church life and everyday life everywhere be revolutionised if these simple words were lived out by us all. Christian communities around the world have often demonstrated this revolution but sadly the reverse can also be true.

Let me tell you about a very good friend of mine who is a single lady with a very demanding job which requires long working hours during the week and into the weekend. This lovely Christian lady makes time at the weekend and during the week to attend her local church which is big, busy and lively and yet the only time in her pressurised schedule that she feels lonely is when she is doing 'church' things. Perhaps this is because the church is all about doing at the expense of being!

So what would 'daily support' mean for someone like that? How would Jesus show that He loved

that person as He loved Himself? Well, in order to love ourselves we need to see ourselves as God sees us. We know that He sees the truth about us some of which is wonderful and some of which is, at best, an embarrassment. But thankfully, once He has dealt with that He chooses to focus on the things that are noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy in each one of us. (Philippians 4:8) Therefore, following that pattern we have a responsibility to think of other people in the same light and to see the image of God in them. God Himself will deal with their shortcomings in the same way that He deals with ours. Our responsibility is to see in our neighbours in the pews the things that are noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy. To look at people in this light changes our relationships from ones that are based on whether or not we agree with them or just value all the work they do to valuing each other for the people that God has made and is making us to be. To return to my single friend she needs to be respected and loved for who she is rather than

for the fact that she might help with the Sunday school, cook for the Alpha supper or hold a certain view of a contentious issue.

So perhaps the **first step** in thinking about how we offer daily support is to ask ourselves 'do I really love my neighbour (in the next pew) as I love myself?'

Obviously, it is not enough just to 'live a life of love' as Paul mentions in Ephesians 5:1. Paul is making the point to the Ephesians about being 'imitators' or following the pattern of Jesus but he goes on to demonstrate that this type of love has consequences. The consequences for Jesus were to cost Him His life and if we follow His pattern a cost will inevitably be involved. For us in comfortable, free speech Britain this day by day support of each other is unlikely to result in our death but for many in other parts of the world that is a daily threat. The consequences for us are likely to be much less demanding but they will still cost us something. The consequences of this 'love' will be seen in time, effort and possibly even money.

Another very good friend of

mine, this time not single but happily married, has a son living and working away from home. Most of us will know very good friends in the same position or be there ourselves and we will observe certain behaviour. The mum has spent time learning to text message in order to keep in touch with her son, she and his grandparents have invested time and money in Skype in order to chat with him using the internet and sometimes his favourite homemade biscuits find their way to his front door via the kindly post person. There is nothing unusual about this for a family that 'love' each other, they willingly give time, money and effort to support each other. There are obvious parallels with the church family.

So perhaps the **second step** in thinking about how we offer daily support to each other in church is to ask 'are the consequences of my love for my neighbour evident in the time, effort and money that I am prepared to invest?'

An example of a church family that really knew how to support each other on a daily basis is the early church where 'all the believers were together and had everything in common'. Acts 2:44 This is a challenging and

perhaps somewhat idealistic state of affairs but I suggest that it was only possible because their first priority was not to support each other! It was however, a by-product or consequence of their first priority which was to 'devote themselves to the apostles teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.'

Daily support for each other will be a natural result of lives that love God, that obey His commands, that love our neighbours as ourselves, that spend time learning how to live imitating Christ, that pray and that allow His Holy Spirit to mould and fashion us to be the people that He wants us to be. Those of you familiar with 'The Shack' by William P Young may remember a conversation between Mack and 'Jesus' about the Church where 'Jesus' says: 'It's simple, Mack. It's about relationships and simply sharing life.....and being open and available to others around us. My church is all about people and life is all about relationships That's what I came to build... a living breathing community of all those who love me, not buildings and programs.'

Heather Henderson

The Mid Sussex Choir

The Mid Sussex Choir was founded in 1946 and has continued ever since, providing amateur singers with a local opportunity to use their gift of music. It is a friendly choir, very much a community, with opportunity for refreshments during rehearsals, so chance to get to know other like-minded folk.

We rehearse on Wednesday evenings at 7.45pm at Perrymount Road Methodist Church. Our able Conductor is Andrew Sutton, and he asks choir members only that they have a love of music and apply themselves to it. Over the years the choir has performed a wide variety of works, appealing to many tastes. There are usually two concerts per year, a Christmas concert, providing ample opportunity for choir and audience alike to enjoy Carols old and new, and the main concert is in the Spring, when we have the added bonus of singing with an orchestra and often professional soloists. New members are always made most welcome, so if you enjoy singing why not consider joining us?

Our next concert is at St. Wilfrids Church in Haywards Heath on Saturday, March 21st. The programme will include the ever popular Faure's Requiem, and the lesser known but beautiful Mass by Hummel (an 18th century composer). Several members of our Church sing in the Mid Sussex Choir, and any of us would be happy to get tickets for you. We are sure you would enjoy an evening of lovely music.

Elise Burden, Carol Merrett, Fiona Tingley, Pat Waller and Graham Wood.

Ready Steady Grow!

“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree.”

Matthew 13:31,32.

It's March and time to get things growing in your garden. Even if you're not particularly keen on gardening, most people like to see some baskets, patio plants or some colourful bedding. Nowadays, the easy and economical way is to buy pre-germinated plugs or starter plants. Sales of flower seeds over the past five years have halved as people go for the easy option, but before you reply to mail-order profferings, work out what you really want and then visit a garden-centre, rather than ordering through the post. Why?

Ten good reasons:

1. **ELIMINATES LIKELY DAMAGE:**

Rough treatment in the post can cause plant bruising.

2. **MORE CONVENIENT:**

Having to wait at home to accept delivery can be a real pain.

3. **NO LOSS OF VIGOUR:**

Just a short period in a dark box in unsuitable weather can weaken plants even before you get them.

4. **SEE WHAT YOU'RE BUYING:**

Judge for yourself the quality and best sizes to choose.

5. **HEALTHIER PLANTS:**

Garden-centre plug plants are usually twice the size of any that you are likely to receive from mail-order companies ensuring healthier, better developed roots.



6. WIDER SELECTION:

Choose from a huge selection of varieties : you can buy single or mixed colours to your preference.

:

7. INSTANT AVAILABILITY:

Ready to select without waiting to see what the mail-order items will be like wil

8. BUY JUST WHEN YOU WANT:

Available when you are ready, not when someone else chooses when to dispatch them.

9. THE QUANTITY YOU NEED:

Buy as many or as few as you want - just buy one plant if you like!

10. GARDEN CENTRE CARE:

All plants are regularly tended and watered in the right atmosphere and temperature right up to the moment you buy them.

How much do they cost? A single plant in a 6cm pot will set you back just 69p. A tray of 24 can cost as little as £2.99, or just over 12p. a plant.

When you get them home, simply pop them into a 9cm. pot using multi-purpose compost. Tend and water them in a frost-free environment - a window-sill in an unheated room or a gently heated conservatory will do.

Plant them out in early May, keeping a watch to see if Jack Frost is still around (if so, use garden fleece) and voila, you will have a colourful garden for months. Look out for new varieties to give an original appearance and really enjoy your garden!

Stuart Marsh

Next month: **Grow your own Vegetables**

Family News

Congratulations!

We offer our warm congratulations to Fay and David Jones who have recently celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary.

Bereavements

We extend our love and deepest sympathy to Dorothy Brown and her Family following the death of Arthur 24th January. Also our love and thoughts are with Joan Armitage and her Sister Elizabeth, as their Cousin Dorothy Harvie died peacefully in the Princess Royal Hospital on 29th. January.

We uphold these two families in our prayers at this sad time.

We are sad to hear of the sudden death of Andrew Muir on February 13th. Our love and sympathy are with Gladys and her Family.

Another of our more elderly members living at Compton House, **Vera Hoad**, has also died. We extend our sympathy to her family

Thanks

I should like to thank the Ladies of the Church who visited, sent flowers and gifts to me when I had my successful operation. It was great to know you were thinking and praying for me, and hope you will go on doing so in the months ahead.

I shall need 'Our Father's' guidance. I really missed my church.

Dorothy Forster

My family and I would like to send most sincere thanks to all our friends for the love and support received following Arther's recent death.

The cards, letters, flowers and help of all kind so freely offered were received with much gratitude and gave us the strength we needed at this time of parting. We truly feel surrounded by prayer and affection. Thank you and God bless you all

Dorothy Brown

The Fellowship

The meeting this month is on Wednesday 25th March at 2.45pm. The speaker is **Mrs. Hazel Gaydon**, and her talk is entitled '**De-cluttering – with a Christian Perspective**'

We look forward to what sounds a very interesting subject and we give a warm welcome to all, and are always blessed to see new members.

There will be the usual Bring and Buy Stall
Winifred Scopes

Lindfield Royal British Legion Women Section...



...is holding a coffee morning in the lounge at Lindfield UR Church on Saturday 28th March from 10-12. Coffee or Tea 50p we are also having a Bring and Buy Stall. Please come along and thereby help the Welfare work of the Women Section of the Royal British Legion.

Betty Billins

11am COMMUNION

After many years of organising the 11 o'clock Sunday Morning Communion arrangements, Audrey McKee is stepping down. We would like to give her our grateful thanks for her faithful service during this time. Audrey will be remaining on the rota for which we are thankful!

We are, however, still one person short on the rota as another long-serving member retired last year and I would be very pleased if someone, lady or gentleman, would step in and help. If the number of helpers remains as it is, your turn on the rota only comes around every four months (or three times a year) so it is not too arduous! This rota is for preparing the Communion table not serving.

I am taking over from Audrey and I would be grateful if you would let me know if you can help.

Carol Marsh, 483500

Women's' World Day of Prayer

The service is on Friday 6th March at 1.30pm at Lindfield United Reformed Church. The speaker is the Rev. Jean Sedgley and the theme is 'In Christ there are many members yet One Body.' The service has been prepared by Christian Women of Papua New Guinea.

A crèche will be available and refreshments will be served after the service. A very warm welcome is extended to all.

Winifred Scopes

"When I Am Dead"

by

Dorothy Harvie

When I am dead and gone my friends,
You'll know I've not gone far;
Though out of sight I'll be, I hope
In some small heavenly star.
Don't think of me as in my grave,
Don't think of me as dead,
For in this journey we call life,
I'll just have gone ahead.
And I'll be waiting there, my dears,
Just waiting there for you
And we shall meet again my friends
As good companions do.
I hope you'll sometimes think of me
And often speak my name;
And in whatever life I am,
I'll do for you the same.
The souls of those who've passed, I think,
Still touch the living too -
Two worlds that meet and touch at times
Will bring me close to you.
I cannot think that such good friends
Can sever all between.
There is a thread that runs from earth
To that world now unseen.
For when at last I've gone my friends,
You'll feel my love and know
My love is just as strong in heaven
As it has been below.
And when you think and speak of me
And our souls then all are one,
I hope you'll feel my blessing warm
Rest on you, like the sun.

Church activities

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

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

Light house (Junior church)

Co-ordinator:

Dawn Walters 01444 441601

Local events



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

**TIGER ARTS
PRESENTS
Lunchtime Concert at
The Tiger
Jane Houghton**

(mezzo soprano)

**Wednesday 11th
March, 1pm**

Light lunches available in the Tiger from 12.15pm. Admission free - collection to cover expenses.

**HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY**

Floral Art

**Wednesday 11th
March, 8pm**

King Edward Hall
– flower arranging demonstration with **Bob Tunks**.

**EVERY THURSDAY
Country Market
King Edward Hall,
10-11.15am**

**The Mid Sussex
Choir**

**Faure's
Requiem,
and Mass
by Hummel** (18th century composer)

**Saturday, March
21st
St. Wilfrids Church
in Haywards Heath,
7.30pm**

Conductor:
Andrew Sutton

**ARDINGLY CHORAL
SOCIETY
CONCERT**

**Elijah -
Mendelssohn
Sunday 5th April
Ardingly College
Chapel**

Tickets £12.
Concessionary £10
Available from Mrs
S Ventham 01273
831264
Also Available at Door