

GoodNEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

MAY 2009

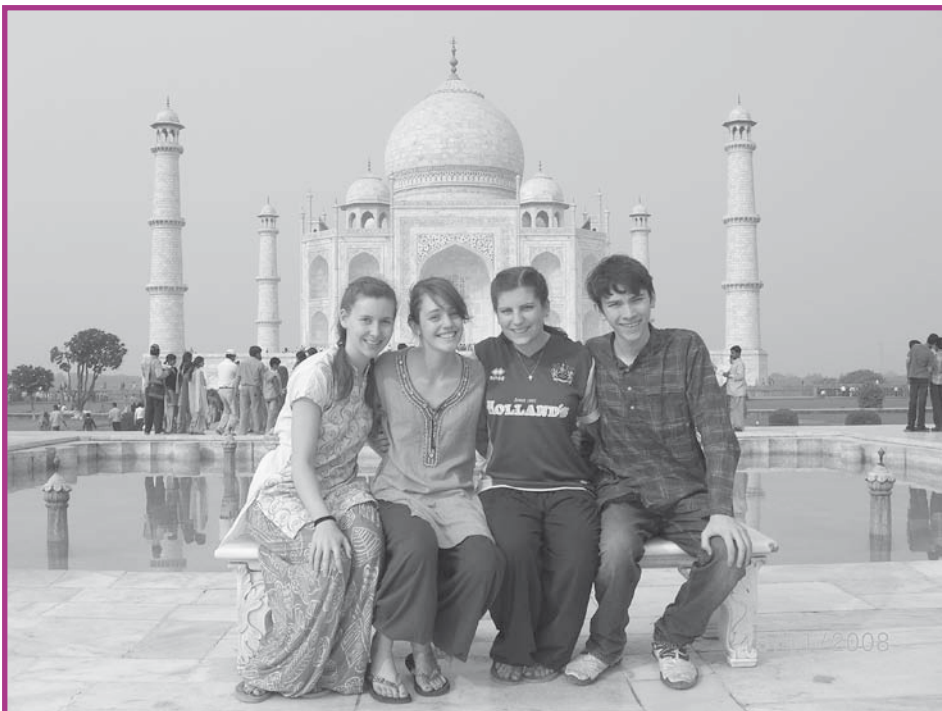
Katie is back from India



PLUS...

- Find out about a quiz night at the pub
- Off the fence - May Mission
- More gardening tips





Dear Friends...



Doesn't time fly when you're enjoying yourself! It certainly does for me, because Jenny and I have been here in Lindfield for a year now and that time has just flown by. I can honestly say that this past year has been one of the most exciting and rewarding in my whole ministry. Let me tell you why. There are three principle reasons.

First, there was the warmth of the welcome.

I was a little daunted when I first saw the inside of "Ryecroft". I wondered whether the house and garden would be too much for Jenny and me to cope with. Indeed, I'm sure it would have been, had it not been for the sterling work done by the gallant band of volunteers who worked so hard to get it ready for us and who have been on hand ever since to put things right when they have gone wrong. Nothing has been too much, from putting bulbs into impossibly difficult light sockets, to building brick walls in the back garden! Everyone has been so kind and welcoming and I want you to know how grateful we are.

As you are aware, this wonderful house has enabled us to give a temporary home to our older son Matthew and his family. I am sure they also would want to say how much they appreciate this. Matthew's plan, after finishing work for John Hopkins University, is to get a job, move to Yorkshire and plant a church. Little did we know it when we were encouraged to think about coming to Lindfield, but this wonderful old house was all part of God's plan to allow him to do that.

Second, there is the commitment of the people.

So much goes on day in, day out in

Lindfield URC and as your minister, let me say thank-you for your time, energy and dedication.

It's wonderful to see the church door open every week-day and to know that as people pass by, they have an opportunity to come in and chat, to relax and maybe spare a few moments in quiet prayer. The concourse ministry is only one part of a whole team of volunteers and just the "tip of the ice-berg" of the work and effort put in by so many, but I have never encountered a church which is so open and ready to serve its community.

Third, there is the fact that we share the ministry at Lindfield.

It's a joy to sit in the 9.30am service and listen as the Worship Group leads the service. It's a joy too to sit in the congregation in the evening service, as others preach and open the Scriptures. For the first time, I have the privilege of sharing my ministry and that doesn't come easy after more than thirty years of trying to do everything yourself! No doubt I have made some mistakes, because the past year has been a steep learning curve for me, but the only sure way to avoid making mistakes is never to do anything and I'm sorry, but that's not in my nature.

Yes indeed - time flies when you're enjoying yourself and I certainly am. I write this letter just as Holy Week is about to begin - my first Holy Week and Easter here at Lindfield. Very soon we shall be singing the Easter hymns and rejoicing in the glory of our Saviour's resurrection. What a wonderful time for me to celebrate my first anniversary as your minister!

Your Pastor and friend,
Charles S. Martin

GoodNEWS

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

Editorial



**I am typing this
with Indian music
in the background! Katie is
home and she talks about her
time in India in this edition.
What she writes will hopefully
whet your appetite to come
to the Missions supper on
Saturday 16th May, when she
and the team will talk more
about their time in India and
especially what God is doing.
This should be a really good
evening.**

Jacqui has taken a number of
different verses about Pentecost
and helpfully gives us a reminder
about what Pentecost is all
about.

We have more gardening tips
which as ever Stuart has makes
very practical and useful. There
are also highlights from events
which have happened and lots
of reminders of events and talks
which will be happening in the
coming month. It is a busy month
ahead!

Val

Prayer **FOCUS**



Prayer – is the greatest power we have. It can be used anywhere, anytime, for anything and it is free.

Prayer – is a relationship with God with whom we converse, share, seek, agonise, yield and love.

Prayer – is a partnership with God whose love and grace enables us to fulfil His purpose for our lives, whatever that might be and where-ever it may take us.

When we don't know how to pray the Holy Spirit intercedes for us (Roms. 8 v. 26). What a comfort. In everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God (Phil. 4 v. 6)

We thank God for the Groups who have met for prayer every Monday 9.30 – 10.30am. (28 years) and Wed. 9.45 – 10.10am. (for 40 years) except Bank Holidays. Please come and share too.

In May let us focus on three areas:-

1. Thank God for our FREEDOM (while we still have it) to praise and worship and share openly.
Pray for the persecuted church, denied this, who suffer horrendous torture, brutality, and persecution. Converts especially lose families, homes and livelihood, yet they stand. Pray for Them.
2. Thank God for our Nation for those who are in leadership and those concerned with the welfare of people.
Pray for wisdom in all decision making and awareness of far reaching consequences. Pray that Christian values may be upheld. Most of all pray that the Holy Spirit will move mightily and that we humble ourselves and repent so that God will hear and heal our land.
(2 Chron. 14 v.7)
3. Thank God for our lovely village and surroundings, our homes, our churches and families. Pray for all those involved in the community, the police, health services, education, shopkeepers etc.
Pray for all who are coping with ill health or struggling in the present financial crisis.

Keep on Praying, never give up
Norna Derham

Katie is back from India

Katie Cookney returned from 6 months in Delhi where she and 3 others have been working with the Anusaran Project set up by John and Abha David in association with BMS world Mission.

Q: You have been home for 15 hours what does it feel like to be home?

Weird! – It feels really strange – very hard to describe. I'm back here where I have grown up and have established routines of doing things but I've been in India for 6 months where I had different routines and I've changed too so it's all merging together sort of.

For instance, I went to have a shower this morning and the lock for the door was in the wrong place and last night I could put my tooth brush under the tap and not have to go to the kitchen for the sterilized water!

It's really quiet here. Last night I went to bed on my own for the first time in 6 months, because the 3 girls on the team shared a small room. That felt strange too.

I guess it's all the little things that you don't expect that feel different but the same.

Q: Where did you live?

We lived in an apartment block in a ground floor flat. The girls had one room and David had his own room. There was a kitchen/living area, a shower room with an English toilet, and then there was the Indian toilet! Each morning the water truck would come round and a buzzer would go and everyone would press a button to fill up their water tanks for the day. Unfortunately our tank leaked and so we lost most of our water, until that is, the leak got fixed. We had a shower for a while, until that broke also, but we had a wall tap and a bucket so we could sort of wash. The English toilet worked for a while until the cistern fell off the wall whilst we were having a Bible study! That never got repaired. Power cuts were normal. When we first had them we would rush around looking for a torch but by the end we would just sit there carrying on our conversations as if nothing had



happened!!

We were not alone in the apartment either; we shared our space with several families of mice, cockroaches, one of which very nearly added crunch and protein to the diet, lizards and mosquitoes.

The living conditions brought us together as a team, laughing at the ridiculous - as we chased around the place trying to catch mice. You just have to laugh at these times and they'll be memories that we will recall and certainly cause us to smile. These apartments were built for middle income families.

Q. What were you doing in Delhi?

We went out to help John and Abha David who run the Anusaran project. Before they started this project John was high in business in Delhi and Abha was a Scientist. They stopped these careers in order to start the Anusaran project which means – 'following the example'. Anusaran was originally set up to empower women, who are usually very restricted in what they are able to do. The project now has the

women's stitching classes, 2 schools and a church.

They have also just introduced beautician classes, where they learn to straighten hair using an iron!!

We were teaching in the 2 schools, but mainly the Village school, which is just on the outskirts the main city of Delhi. We took English lessons and organised activities, crafts, games and generally having fun with the kids. It was an opportunity to teach them moral values but mostly to show them love and give them time which many of them don't get for one reason or another.

We also spent time with the women and girls by taking devotions in the morning, but again it was about making friends with them, giving them time, valuing them and enabling them to have fun. Having fun for some of the older women was really hard, since from an early age they have not been allowed to 'have fun'.

Feature Article – Katie Returns from India ---

Q. What about the church?

We went to church on Sunday and Wednesday. Wednesday was more informal and interactive with games and Bible Study.

Sunday at church was usually from about 10.30 – 2.00pm! It wasn't about just a service it was about coming together as a family to share and be together, to encourage one another in our daily lives and what God is doing.

The morning would start with singing – Indians love to sing no matter what they sound like. We would then have a time of sharing. Someone would say 'Who is excited this morning?' Another person would stand up and talk about what has happened this week and others, especially Abha, would be encouraging them as they speak with, "C'mon didi (sister)" or something like that!

After this the children would leave for their activities, which we sometimes led, whilst the rest of the church would listen to a message usually from John, but Abha also talked and so did we a few times! This would last for about an hour! John especially would have us looking up and comparing different Bible passages.

We then had a time of open prayer and songs, and then the children would come back in and

show us what they had been doing. After the service there was a time of fellowship, this was a time when people could ask for specific prayer if they wanted to.

After the initial shock of the craziness of it all, I absolutely loved it. I learnt so much from the people at church, they were always thankful to God and always really ready to praise and get excited for Him!

Q. Can you think of what was for the best thing about being in India?

The people – they are so welcoming and genuinely friendly. They are not afraid to show their emotions and how they feel about you. They are always willing to laugh, to talk and eager to find out about others. On our train journeys we met lots of random people.

Oh and the trains I seriously love Indian trains. There is no glass in the windows, there are shutters if you want, so as we passed through the country side you don't just see it go by, you feel and smell it! The doors are open, so whilst the train is moving we would sit in the door ways waving to folks as we went by. An awesome experience and one I would love to do again.



Q. What do you think you have learnt whilst in India?

At New Year we had a Bible study with the David's. We prayed about the coming year and we were each asked for one particular thing that we wanted to pray for. I asked that I would seek God in everything.

I saw this in the lives of the people in church. During the time of sharing I always felt the challenge of thinking about what God has done for me, and not just the big things that are obvious, but also the little things that I often forget to thank God for. It's about seeing God in everything even the small things, because He is always walking with us.

Another thing I learnt was that God has a sense of humour in dealing with us and changing us.

The 3 girls were asked to preach on International Women's Day. For my part I was going to talk about Mary and Martha. I was trying to say that Martha was so busy getting things just right and perfect that she missed the point of what she was preparing for – she missed what Jesus was saying. The three of us were trying to sort everything out, but I ended up getting in a bit of a strop and I went off in a bit of a huff! I then began to realise that I hadn't been listening

to myself, and what I was trying to prepare for the service was actually a lesson that I needed to take on board myself! I kind of missed the point, wanting to make the talk perfect rather than listening to what Jesus wanted to say to me! When I realised it did make me chuckle, it's like God teaches me despite myself!

Q. What happens next?

After a few days at home we go back up to Birmingham – BMS' mission centre, for about 2 weeks for debriefing and also for training for the tour. The Tour is for 2 months when we will be visiting 8 churches around the UK. We will be staying at a different church each week doing youth activities, visiting schools etc. We will be here in Lindfield the week of 11th 18th May.

I just would like to finish by saying a very big thank you again to everyone, for all your support through praying for us and for your emails, letters and cards. It was a real encouragement to receive them and I am really excited to be able to share all our experiences with you in May!

Katie Cookney

Off the Fence

Most of us will know about the work that Off the Fence is doing in the city of Brighton & Hove. Founded over 12 years ago with a vision to help the socially excluded, the work extends from supporting women at risk, helping rough sleepers and the homeless, to having input into the lives of many young people through the schools work.

In the past we have supported the Antifreeze Project, but this year there is a need of finance for **The Safe House Project** which is a supported housing scheme for vulnerable teenagers.

The Safe House Project was established in 2002 to provide a safe haven for young people (principally those between 16 – 25) who have spent their lives in long-term care or have found themselves in difficult family situations. Typically these range from escaping from abusive parents, to attempting to 'break the cycle' of drug or alcohol misuse often fuelled by peer pressure experienced in the home environment.

The need for the Project directly arose through experiences of helping the many teenagers who were met through the homelessness outreach, project 'Project Antifreeze'. It is often easy to underestimate how difficult the ordinary everyday actions that we all take for granted can be for a young person who has been 'in care' for most of their life. Youngsters need to know how to pay their bills, budget in order to buy a week's food all on the average welfare benefit that many young people will receive, something that would be difficult enough for those with experience of life, but practically impossible for someone who has never had to do their own budgeting, cooking and shopping.

Off the Fence identified at an early stage the complete lack of affordable housing in the area and the fact that landlords are reluctant to rent to those who are under 18 (most will not consider anyone under 21). This led to discussions with other voluntary organisations active in the area and the launch of the Safe House Project.

However, the provision of accommodation is only part of the project. Upon arrival at "The Safe House", a plan is created with input from the teenagers to enable them to live independently. They are then given coaching in housekeeping, personal safety and, if needed referred to counsellors or other services that they may need. To assist with their personal development they have fortnightly meetings with trained staff to discuss progress and any current issues in a structured environment but always with a

friendly face to turn to if things get difficult.

As well as staff costs, on-going maintenance is always needed to enable the house to feel more like a home.

More information can be found on the mission display area. If you would like to give towards the work please use the special envelopes and place your gift in the offertory at any Sunday service during the month. Please complete a Gift Aid Slip if appropriate

Thank you

You are invited to
Supper with
Katie Cookney & Team
Saturday 16th May, 7.30pm

Many of us supported Katie whilst she was in Delhi on a BMS Action Team working in a school, church and the local community. She and her team will be in Lindfield from 11th to 18th May taking various meetings, school assemblies etc.

It's great that we have the opportunity of catching up with her, seeing and hearing about all she and the team have been doing over the last six months.

No doubt there will be a good number who will want to come to the supper so reserve your ticket early.

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

The Archbishop and the BBC

The Archbishop of Canterbury has had a meeting with the Director General of the BBC, Mark Thomson, in which he said that the Corporation should not ignore its Christian audience.

The talks came at a time when some senior figures are worried about signs that the BBC is more interested in promoting minority faiths than in broadcasting Christian programming or teaching.

There has been a great upheaval in the BBC's religious department and the former head of religious programmes, Michael Wakelin, has failed to land the re-named job of Commissioning Editor, Religion and Ethics. A leading contender for the post is Aaqil Ahmed, a Muslim who holds a similar post at Channel 4, and who has taken part in campaigns in favour of a greater Muslim presence in the media.

Eyebrows were also raised last year at the appointment of Tommy Nagra, a Sikh, as executive producer of the BBC's Songs of Praise. The talks between Dr. Williams and the BBC are to continue.

Anger Over Call To Cut Hospital Chaplain Funds

The National Secular Society (NNS) has said that the National Health Service should stop spending £40 million a year on hospital chaplains. They said that churches and other groups should foot the bill themselves thus freeing the money to be spent on more nurses and cleaners.

More than five hundred chaplains are employed by the NHS ministering to people of all faiths, visiting the sick and dying, and helping families and people faced with many dilemmas. The NSS claims that "very few patients find them helpful", but the Department of Health and the Patients' association spoke out in support of chaplains and condemns the "sweeping generalisations of the NSS".

A spokesman for the Church of

England says, "Spiritual healthcare has long been acknowledged by both medical practitioners and the churches, to be an intrinsic part of caring for people in hospital."

Debt Counselling

There are now one hundred debt-counselling centres across the country run by Christians Against Poverty. As the recession begins to bite deeper and more people are desperate for help, the CAP offers a free, professional one-to-one debt- counselling service through local churches to anyone with unmanageable debts, a calls to them have doubled since late last year.

CAP's chief executive, Matt Barlow says, "It is so exciting that the church will be recognised for meeting people's needs in both a practical and spiritual way.



Easter Saturday 11th April 2009, was our first Messy Church Event – an opportunity for young and old to enjoy looking at the meaning of Easter through different activities: making musical instruments out of junk, creating cards, designing Easter story bags, painting baskets, solving a word search or enjoying a game of Connect 4. Everyone was also encouraged to participate in creating a handprints banner and Easter Collage, tomb and garden – these were shared with the rest of the church on Easter Day.

Those who attended secondary school were invited to participate in Media Church where plasticine and lego models were being created and a film about Easter was made by the youngsters.

The Messy Church Band led the worship time and a few Easter thoughts were shared before everyone was invited to stay for tea – jacket potatoes and fillings followed by chocolate cake which seemed to be much appreciated.

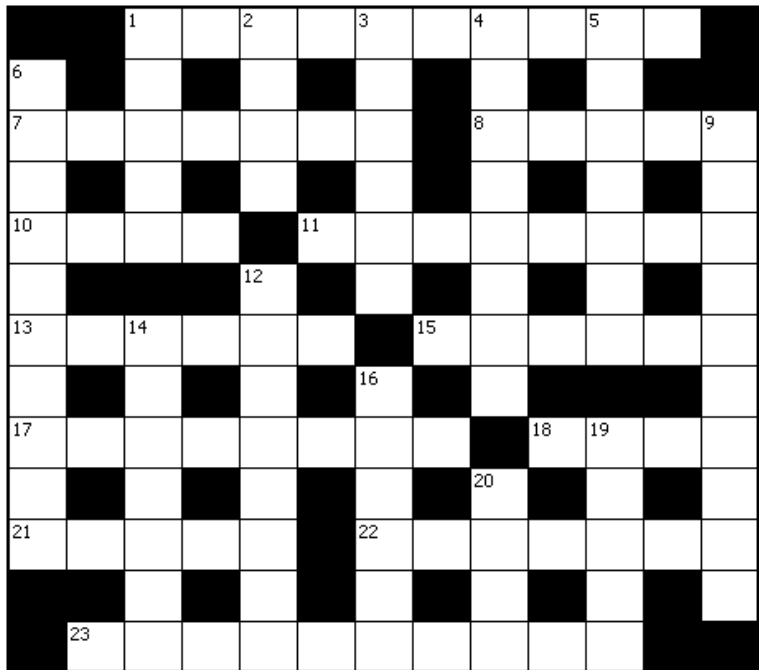
It was great to have 67 guests come along to join in the fun – our next Messy Church Event is **Messy Summer** on **Saturday 13th June 2009** – come along if you can!

Clare Nibloe

tword

This crossword, reproduced by kind permission of BRF and John Capon, was originally published in Three Down, Nine Across, by John Capon (£6.99 BRF).

Answers on page 27.



Clues

Across

- 1 Sense of right and wrong (1 Corinthians 8:7) (10)
- 7 Coming (John 11:17) (7)
- 8 "All I have is..., and all you have is mine" (John 17:10) (5)
- 10 Smarten (Acts 9:34) (4)
- 11 Hold back (Job 9:13) (8)
- 13 Member of the Society of Friends (6)
- 15 At ague (anag.) (6)
- 17 Citizen of the Greek capital (8)
- 18 So be it (Galatians 6:18) (4)
- 21 Twentieth-century poet and dramatist who wrote Murder in the Cathedral, T.S. (5)
- 22 Empowers (Philippians 3:21) (7)
- 23 Imposing (1 Samuel 9:2) (10)

Down

- 1 Healed (Luke 7:21) (5)

- 2 Central space in a church (4)
- 3 Co-founder of Spring Harvest and General Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance 1983-97, Clive..... (6)
- 4 Moses killed one when he saw him beating a Hebrew labourer (Exodus 2:12) (8)
- 5 Bravery (Acts 4:13) (7)
- 6 It interrupted Paul and Silas singing hymns in a Philippian jail (Acts 16:26) (10)
- 9 Transgression (Psalm 36:1) (10)
- 12 Irish province in which Dublin is situated (8)
- 14 Same hit (anag.) (7)
- 16 The Spirit of God was hovering over the ... (Genesis 1:2) (6)
- 19 Author of the immortal stories of Winnie the Pooh, A.A. (5)
- 20 Cab (4)

Bereavement

We are sad to report the death of our Eldest Church member, **Kitty Wood**, who was 103. Kitty died peacefully in Compton House on April 7th with her family around her. She was a lovely, courageous, devoted Christian, always interested in others and what was going on in the church and village. Without Kitty and a few other faithful souls back in the 1940s, Lindfield URC. would not still be going today. Kitty will be sadly missed by her family, friends and at Lindfield Christian Care Home where she had lived for many years. We extend our love and sympathy to Graham, Jacqueline and Julia, and assure them of our prayers at this time.

Thank you

Gladys and family would like to send their heartfelt thanks to all the church family for their cards, flowers and messages, for kindness and support during this sad time.

Special thanks to Mike and Jean who were with Paul and me until the end. Their thoughts and prayers were of great comfort to me.

It is wonderful to know I belong to such a caring and loving church family.

Thank you all for your on-going support, love and care

God Bless you all,
Gladys Porter

Congratulations

Many congratulations to **Chris** and **Derrick Caswell** who celebrated their **Ruby Wedding** quite recently.

The Fellowship

The meeting this month is on **Wednesday 27th May** at **2.45pm**.

The title of the talk is '**In the Steps of St. Paul**.' And the speaker is **Timothy Morris**.

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

In Touch

We are arranging to take a group of ladies to the **Healing Service at Burrswood (Goudhurst)** on **Thursday 28th May**. This starts with coffee at Burrswood from **10.30am**.

Please note that this is a change to our usual Tuesday evening meetings.

Barbara Shepherd

May church diary

2nd

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at Evangelical Free

3rd

Sunday 9.30am Paul Young – from
Off the Fence
– Communion
11.00am Paul Young
6.30pm David Jones

7th

Thursday House Groups

9th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at Evangelical Free

10th

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

13th

Wednesday 12.30 Lunch Fellowship Outing

14th

Thursday 8.00pm Church Meeting

16th

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at Evangelical Free

17th

Sunday 9.30am Ron Goodenough
with Katie Cookney
11.00am Ron Goodenough
(Elders Quiet Day)
6.30pm Charles Martin with
Communion

21st

Thursday House Groups

23rd

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at Evangelical Free

24th

Sunday 9.30am TBA
11.00am Communion
6.30pm TBA

27th

Wednesday Afternoon Fellowship
7.30pm Elders meeting

28th

Thursday In Touch Group to Burrswood
8.00pm Church Prayer
meeting

30th VILLAGE DAY

Saturday 8.45am Prayer Meeting
– 9.30am at Evangelical Free

31st

Sunday 9.30am Dan McQuillin
11.00am Dan McQuillin
6.30pm Charles Martin

**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:-

3rd	Stuart Dew
10th	Philip Wren
17th	Charles Martin
24th	Matthew Wren
31st	Philip Wren

FlowerRota



Arranging

Distributing

May

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

June

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

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.

ROCK ON!

Not in a musical sense but in a horticultural one! Do you have an alpine garden or rockery? - one and the same thing really. There should be room for one in every garden no matter how small. If you don't have space for a full-size rockery, try growing in an old sink or trough.

What do you need?



A sunny spot - preferably, although there are some shade tolerant alpine plants.



Rocks! - either choose from a variety of types from a garden centre or, cut out the 'middle man' and go straight to a quarry like Philpotts at West Hoathly but ring them first (01342-811311). You can pick your own Sussex stone.



Gritty Compost - alpine grow naturally on the lower slopes of mountains so you need, to some extent, to replicate the scree, or at least, to top dress with your selected chippings.



Suitable Plants - these depend on their environment. I have listed a selection here but, for further varieties, I have free leaflet or you could refer to "The Rock Garden Expert", one of an excellent series of "Expert" books by Arthur Hessayon.

- Upright Alpines for sun : Anthemis (dwarf Marguerite), Dianthus (Rock Pinks), Erigeron (blue, pink or white Daisies), Gentiana (acid soil lover, bright blue 'Gentian' for Autumn), Helianthemum ('Rock' or 'Sun Rose'), Leontopodium ('Edelweiss'), Rhodohypoxis (acid lover, pink, bright red or white flowers).

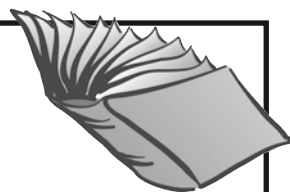


- Upright Alpines for some shade : Ajuga ('Bugle'), Primula, Rockery Viola.
- Trailing and gently spreading Alpines for ground cover, paving stone and wall crevices: Arabis, Armeria ('Thrift'), Cerastium Tomentosa ('Snow in Summer'), Lamium ('Dead Nettle'), Lysimachia ('Creeping Jenny'), Saponaria Ocymoides ('Tumbling Ted'), Saxifraga.
- Miniature Alpines for shallow pans, sinks or troughs: Crassula, Sedums, Sempervivums - all succulents.
- Miniature Bulbs to give welcome early colour : Chinodoxa, Cyclamen, Galanthus ('Snowdrop'), Iris, Narcissi, Scilla.
- Other suitable plants: compact forms of Conifers, Ferns, Grasses and Herbs can also be added to rockeries to widen interest and to provide more year round interest.

There you have it. Sorry if the list is a bit long, but the subject of alpine plants is a large one. Good luck with your rockery.

Next Time: **Cottage Garden Perennials**

Stuart Marsh

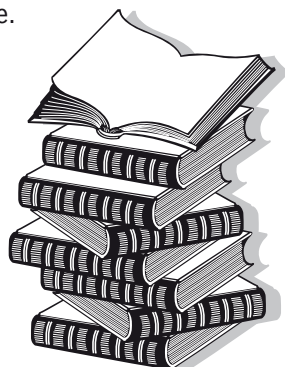


Book Review Reminder

In next month's edition of Good News, we are reviewing 'The Shack' by William P. Young.

This is a truly unforgettable story about one man's meeting with God and we recommend you to read it.

If any of you have read a book lately that has really spoken to you, we would be really pleased to hear from you. It needn't be too long - about 300 words would be fine.



Thank you



A Ministry of Prison Fellowship

Thank You For The Angel Tree Support

Last Christmas 2008 under the PRISON FELLOWSHIP ANGEL TREE PROGRAMME, we were again able to send 50 gifts to children of the prisoners at Lewes.

We praise God for the response we had from various local churches, it has been our joy to hear from the fathers, saying how much it meant to them to send a personal letter and gift to their children, we saw fathers in tears and one prisoner said that he had been in prison for a very long time and no one had asked him about his children. In turn we have heard from the children how excited they were on Christmas morning to have a present, and when they next visited their fathers in prison they were able to show their dads how much it meant to them.

We would very much like to thank LINDFIELD URC for their support and generous gifts toward this project. Your gifts have made it possible to keep prisoners families together. We may not know of all the results of ANGEL TREE, but we do know that this is a tool we can use to spread the Gospel. We know of one family who was given a gift in 2007, and today are still going to a local church, and still remembering the gifts they were given.

Every blessing and in deep gratitude

Nigel and Val Maynard
Crawley Prison Fellowship

Passing on the Good News

Recently I popped into a shop I visit frequently. It was a cloudy day and I remarked to the lady behind the counter that I hoped the sun would come out soon to brighten everything up as it makes all the Spring flowers and blossoms look even more beautiful. She said 'I hope so too, and if you don't have hope what is there?' I replied 'you're right. Have a good day!' and left the shop.

When I arrived home her words rang a bell in my thoughts and I felt the Holy Spirit prompting me to look up in the Bible Concordance the word 'Hope'. There were 154 verses talking about Hope, Hopes or Hoped, and one verse mentioned Hopeless, so there is every reason to hope like Jeremiah 29.11.

I wrote about six verses down and gave them to the lady with an Inspire magazine a few days later and said 'you are right, there is every reason for people to have hope'.

Let's keep on passing the Good News to others as God gives us little opportunities. We can make all sorts of excuses in our minds not to say anything when the opportunity arises, but as we take these opportunities to say 'a word in season', so God will give us more, not to mention the wonderful joy He puts in our hearts for speaking of Him to those who don't as yet know Him. There is a needy world out there!

Raymond Tijou



The LORD God formed the man
from the dust of the ground
and breathed into his nostrils
the breath of life, and the man
became a living being. . .

It's three o'clock in the morning, and I'm sitting up in bed, trying to put pen to paper to write an article on "The Gift Of The Holy Spirit At Pentecost". I'm wide awake, and it's raining outside. It's so quiet I can hear the cat munching his way through his first breakfast of the day!

The event of Pentecost is so important and such a huge subject that the truth is I hardly know where to start, but I've got this sentence running around my head. It's from the book of John, 16: 3 **"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come."**

Jesus says this whilst speaking to His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane. That

was a big night for the disciples: they had shared the Last Supper with Jesus, He had washed their feet, and Judas had gone. I guess they were tired, confused, frightened and sad. Jesus spoke about leaving: they were heartbroken and confused, but that was nothing compared to what was coming. Jesus knew their hearts and this was his response . . . **"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"** ⁶Jesus answered, **"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**

And then Jesus spoke about the Holy Spirit . . . ¹⁵

"If you love me, obey my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will

give you another Advocate, who will never leave you.¹⁷ He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you."

"But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

"When the Counsellor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.¹⁴He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.¹⁵All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is

mine and make it known to you."

Jesus said all these things to his friends on the night before his death, in the Garden of Gethsemane. Perhaps it wasn't until a little later that they fully comprehended what He had said . . . truly bereft at losing Him, traumatized at watching their dearest friend die. And then, early on Sunday morning . . .

"Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, "I have seen the Lord!"

¹⁹On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²²And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

The month and a half that followed must have been a

little bit mind blowing for the Disciples! I should imagine they would never have wanted that time to end . . . but then came the time for Jesus to return to heaven . . . “

“Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

What a rollercoaster these disciples were on - these men and women who loved Jesus must have wondered if they were on their head or their heels! I read an interesting fact in the study bible which explained the following: “Pentecost is also called the “Festival of First Harvest”. A Festival of thanksgiving for the harvested crops. Jews of many nations gathered in Jerusalem for this event. (Life Application Study

Bible Notes) Apparently the rollercoaster was still on a roll . . . and the Disciples were in for the ride of their lives . . .

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ²Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

⁵Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. ⁷Utterly amazed, they asked: “Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? ⁸Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? . . . ”

Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

Sometimes when we are starting out to learn about

the Holy Spirit we too can find ourselves amazed and perplexed, but it is good to remind ourselves of the words of Jesus . . . **“Peace be with you!”**

The Holy Spirit is an incredible gift from Jesus to the Church. We need the Holy Spirit in our (spiritual) lives as much as our physical bodies need water.

Some of the people in the crowd made fun of the disciples, and accused them of being drunk, but Peter set them straight!

“God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this. ³³ Now he is exalted to the place of highest honour in heaven, at God’s right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today.

Interestingly Peter wasn’t the first man in Jerusalem to speak about the Holy Spirit. Between 835 – 796 BC a man called Joel, who was a prophet, said this . . .

“And afterwards, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on

my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.”

Billy Graham writes in his book “The Journey”

“We not only need to know how God wants us to live; we also need the power to achieve it and God has given us that power by giving us His Holy Spirit. He gives us the Bible to teach us, and other Christians to encourage us – but He also gives us His Holy Spirit to change us. Not only do we have other Christians around us, but we have the Holy Spirit within us. He is our constant, unchanging companion on the way.”

Well, the rain has stopped; the earth has spun slowly on its axis, changing from night to day. The cat, after a satisfying doze is now awake and chasing the marker ribbons on my bible! The last words are from the book of Revelation, chapter 22 verse 17.

The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.

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

Tales from a Minister's Murky Past

Jenny and I, along with our two sons, spent eleven years in St. Mary Cray, just south of London in Orpington. For part of that time, I was a hospital chaplain and this incident took place one evening after the death of an elderly female member of the Traveller Community, when about fifty of her relatives descended on the hospital to view her body.

In the Traveller Community, the older women are very important. You might almost call them "Matriachs" and this old lady had held sway over her family for many years. Finally her reign had come to end and her obsequies were about to begin. Her relatives all crowded into the small chapel at Orpington Hospital. I was profoundly grateful that I was not alone and that my senior chaplain, an Anglican priest, was with me at the time. He was younger than

me, but a good deal taller and had a shock of black hair which was always untidy, giving him the aspect of a Russian monk.

There had been some question as to how exactly the old lady had died and her relatives wanted some answers. We stood our ground as someone shouted "Where's the old girl?" "Your mother is in the mortuary" my colleague replied. "I'm too young not to have a mother!" moaned someone else. "Well, you'll just have to get used to it, 'cos she's gone, ain't she?" came the answer. Suddenly there was a scuffle and to my horror, one of the very heavy cone-shaped fire extinguishers came flying across the chapel. We all ducked and it fell harmlessly against the wall, but by now emotions were running high.

"Everyone calm down!" shouted my colleague. He was answered by a large man who bellowed "Who the hell do

you think you are? Don't tell me to calm down." "I'm the senior chaplain here and if I tell you to calm down, you well will calm down. Now just cool it!" My colleague wasn't usually given to swearing, but he could do so quite spectacularly when the occasion demanded it and this seemed to have the desired effect, but it was only temporary. Soon things began to get ugly again, but to our great relief, one or two of the Travellers took the situation in hand themselves. They arrived with a large piece of old carpet. The principal belligerent was swiftly brought to the ground, wrapped up in the carpet, carried off to an awaiting van and securely locked inside.

After that, two at a time, they were taken to view their mother, grand-mother and great-grand-mother. I can't remember ever having had a lecture about

how to face a situation like that, when I was in Theological College. That's a bit of gap don't you think? The ironic thing is that some folk think that ministers don't live in the real world - oh well, as the saying goes - "It's a great life if you don't weaken !"

CSM

From your new Church Treasurer

When I finished my five years articled to a Chartered Accountant in the City of London and headed for Cambridge to train for the ministry in 1955, I thought I was saying goodbye to balance sheets and board minutes. I served as minister in two very different pastorates and then had a six year spell as the first Youth Secretary of the newly formed URC from 1972 and another for twelve years as Synod Moderator in North London.

However, all through that time I was dogged by my earlier experience and seemed constantly to get drawn into money and management matters. In 1990 I finally succumbed and went off to Geneva to serve the World Council of Churches as General Secretary for Finance & Administration – a fascinating seven years.

On return to UK and “retirement” in Lindfield I imagined I would have plenty of time in the garage, operating my model railway “Uxbridge Junction” and perhaps helping out with the real thing on the Bluebell. But, as we all know, the Lord often has other plans for us and in the past decade I have had turns as Treasurer of the Free Church Council, Secretary and a Director of the URC Pension Fund and latterly in various Synod convenorships.

When these all finished in 2008 I again contemplated the quiet life, but my friends seemed determined to keep me out of mischief – and somehow I have landed up as Treasurer of Lindfield URC. I have to say it is nice to be able to do something hopefully useful in one’s local church – which does not require frequent trips to Croydon or Tavistock Place WC1. However, it is a steep learning curve, because dealing hands on with receiving contributions & paying bills is rather different from high level investment policy and Synod re-structuring!

I shall do my best and look forward to the challenge. As I learn I shall say more, but a few quick points now:

- Please put contributions to Lindfield URC into the offering on Sunday – preferably with a clear indication of from whom it comes and what it is for (church general funds, mission projects, youth pastor, etc).
- Bills to be paid, receipts, correspondence for the Treasurer, please put addressed to me in the “D” pigeonhole. I shall clear it regularly and, if I am away, someone else will collect it and deal with urgent matters.
- If I am not around, please contact Paul Bloxham, who is Assistant Treasurer (we shall work out in due course exactly who does what, but we shall cover for each other meantime).
- If you don’t hear from me and think you should, please phone 482024 or e-mail: michael.j.davies21@btinternet.com.
- We are very grateful to Eileen Jacques for her stint as Treasurer and Accountant and are glad that she is still on the Finance Committee and available to advise and help.

Michael Davies

Quiz Aid

Lindfield URC Outreach team is organising a “Quiz Aid” pub quiz during Christian Aid week to help raise money for some of the world's poorest communities.

Monday 11th May
– 8.00pm in the
Stand Up Inn,
Lindfield



Everyone is invited to join us for the evening in the Stand Up Inn (just a short hop over the high street!)

Friends, family and work colleagues are all invited to join in. Just invite all your brainiest and most trivia minded chums and quiz the night away. Each team makes a donation to play and there is a £50 prize for the winning team. Every player that registers also has a chance to enter the national Quiz Aid draw where one lucky winner will walk away with a year's supply of Chocolate (That's 1,460 bars!)

Dan McQuillin

Answers to crossword on page 12			
Across		Down	
13 Quaker	15 Gateau	9 Sinfulness	6 Earthquake
11 Restrain	17 Athenian	12 Leinster	5 Courage
10 Tidy	18 Amen	14 Atheism	4 Egyptian
8 Yours	21 Elliot	16 Waters	3 Calver
7 Arrival	22 Enables	19 Milne	2 Nave
1 Conscience	23 Impressive	20 Taxi	1 Cured

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



Lindfield
United Reformed Church



Pot
Luck



Geography



History

$$\frac{M}{2E^{\frac{2}{3}}M^{\frac{1}{3}}}$$

Maths



Sport



Music



Quizaid



Do you have what it takes to
be a smart Alec
or a brainy Brenda?



A fun quiz that also makes a serious
difference to some of the worlds
poorest communities

The Stand Up Inn : May 11th at 8:00pm

Win £50 plus the chance to take home
a years supply of chocolate!



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Local events



Horticultural Society

Coffee Morning and Plants Sale

Saturday 2nd May, 10am - 12noon, *King Edward Hall*

Continuous Colour in the Herbaceous Border

Wednesday 13th May, 8pm *King Edward Hall*

Preservation Society

The Legacy of the Third Earl of Sheffield (1832-1909) of Sheffield Park

– speaker **Brian Tester**.

Wednesday 20th May, 8pm, *King Edward Hall*

LINDFIELD CHRISTIAN CARE HOME

Come to our Plant Sale

Saturday 9th May

10am to 12noon, *Compton House*

Lindfield Village Day

Saturday 30th May

The Home has a stall on the common, like last year. There will be photographs and literature available. The stall will also provide simple health checks by offering blood pressure readings and weight measurements. This was very popular last year!

Do please come to our stand and meet some of the staff, find out what they do, and discover how well you are!

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.